SPORTS / A31

Wimbledon shocker: Czech ousts Federer

SPORTS / A31

Brazil to miss Elano but ready for Netherlands

NEWS / A13

New ballgame for James: 'I'll fight for Kris, family'

ACROSS / A18

Bong Pineda's wife: What 'jueteng'?

P-Noy, the singer, got talent, gets 'A' for effort

By Nikko Dizon, Jo Uy and Bayani San Diego Jr.
Entertainment

"P-NOY'S" GOT TALENT!

The reviews are finally in after President Aquino pulled off his most audacious act so far just hours after assuming power: Singing at his star-studded inaugural

PHOTO, A23

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, July 2, 2010 ★★ Vol. 25 / No. 204

No surprise: GMA, son file Cha-cha bill

By Leila B. Salaverria and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BARELY 24 HOURS AFTER TAKING HER oath as member of the House of Representatives, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo relaunched her career as a lawmaker yesterday by resurrecting a controversial measure that had struck fear among her foes during her last days in Malacañang: Charter change.

The former President and her son, Co-

NO SURPRISE, A11

Graft raps filed vs GMA

NBN-ZTE deal returns to haunt her

By Jovanie Aning

SAYING THE SCANDAL IS already "well-documented" in the Senate, the complainants see no need to wait for a truth commission.

A day after she stepped out of Malacañang, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo got hit by a ton of bricks, in the Department of Justice (DOJ).

The former president, who is now a congresswoman-at Pampanga, was the subject of a 32-page complaint filed by representatives of the party-list group Bayan Muna yesterday at the DOJ in connection with the aborted $329-million NBN-ZTE deal during her term.

Asked why they filed the case at the DOJ and not the Ombudsman, Rep. Teodoro Casiño replied, "We want the DOJ to do the case buildup. What we don't want to happen is to give everything to the Ombudsman because basically, we don't have faith anymore in the Ombudsman, that we could get justice there."

Casiño was referring to the Ombudsman's decision last August not to include Arroyo in the case because she then enjoyed presidential immunity. Only Social Security System president Romulo Neri and resigned Commo-

DRAFT, A8

CHILD'S PLAY President Aquino invites a high five from little Lucy, who giggles and holds back as her mother Sophie, daughter of Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo, prods her to oblige. Mother and daughter were in Malacañang on Thursday for Domingo's oath-taking.

Boo-boo or not: Palace reissues 'firing' circular

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT WASN'T EXACTLY A BOO-BOO, OR even first-day jitters. Just fine-tuning.

Palace officials yesterday took back the first presidential order of President Aquino that declared vacant as of Wednesday the positions of all noncareer appointees of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and extended for another month the services of contractual employees.

But within the day, officials retracted the order, this time specifying who

BOO-BOOX, A12

Noy checks coffers; Cabinet hit ground running

PRESIDENT AQUINO AND HIS TEAM spent their first full day in office yesterday looking into state coffers as a crucial first step in meeting his vow to root out corruption and help the poor.

Mr. Aquino wants to be able to repeat the real situation during his "State of the Nation" Address on July 26, when he will seek funding support for his programs, according to his spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

"The President gave his marching orders to each Cabinet member," Lacierda told Agence France-Presse. "They have two weeks to get to know the lay of the land."

Lacierda said that for the next few weeks, Mr. Aquino would fulfill his campaign promise to go after tax cheats and begin implementing programs specifically targeted at the very poor who comprise a third of the population.

The Philippines posted a budget deficit of P162.1 billion in the first five months of the year, and analysts agree it is unlikely the full-year funding gap would be kept below P300 billion.

A roundup of the first full working day of the Aquino Cabinet follows below:

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF) Secretary Cesar Purisima will play a key role in "putting life into" Mr. Aquino's anticorruption campaign platform.

NOY CHECKS, A11

Jojo finds office too small, chair too big

By Tarra Quismundo

WHAT'S THE BIMA TO DO?

His chair is too big; his office is a tad too small, too warm and too bare.

And the budget? Lesser than one barangay in Makati.

On his first day in a new office yesterday, Vice President Jejomar

JOJO, A10

VEEP'S FIRST DAY Vice President Jejomar Binay checks out his new spare office at the PNB Building in Pasay City—and pronounces it wanting in "yaman."

Aquino, Binay split on 'wangwang' ban

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Nikko Calleja

PEDESTRIANS STANDING ON ARANETA Avenue and Aurora Boulevard in Quezon City erupted into a loud cheer when they saw the white Land Cruiser of the country's most powerful man drive by without any siren, blinkers and

In his inaugural address on Wednesday, Mr. Aquino expressed disgust over seeing private vehicles using sirens ("wangwang" in Filipino street lingo) and blinkers, as well as traffic counterflow, to get past ordinary motorists on the road. He promised that he himself would not use sirens.

At 9:30 a.m. yesterday, the President left his house on Times Street with

AQUINO, A10

First Igorot bishop, martial law foe dies; 81

By Krissine L. Abion
in Manila
and Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

FRANCISCO CLAVER, THE FIRST Igorot bishop whose campaign for social justice during the martial law years helped frame the Philippine Catholic Church's policy of active nonviolence that inspired the peaceful People Power Revolution of 1986, died yesterday.

He was 81.

Fr. William Abiva of the Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus said Claver succumbed to pulmonary embolism, or blocked arteries, at 2:45 a.m. at the intensive care unit of Cardinal Santos Memorial Medical Center. He had undergone a heart bypass a month earlier, relatives said.

Catubaro Archbishop Orlando B. Quevedo said of Claver: "Filipino prophet without peer, truest priest, innovative humble shepherd, a very dear friend. He is with Jesus whom he pro-

FIRST, A6

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY Cloudy and Convergence Zone affecting Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered showers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rain showers in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Isabela/Cauayan	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy
Pagudpud	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legaspi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Virac	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

Second FRONTPAGE

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6/42	
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1st	10 22
3rd	5 3

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5:00PM	4 2 2
9:00PM	7 6 8

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	13 15 21 31 43 46
	₱35,400,664.00

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Mar Roxas to file poll protest

By Philip C. Tubeza

FORMER SEN. MANUEL "MAR" ROXAS II YESTERDAY announced he would file an electoral protest against Vice President Jejomar Binay next week before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

Roxas said the protest would be filed next week to beat the deadline for the filing of election protests. He has 30 days from the proclamation of his opponent to file an election protest.

"No confirming that we will be filing an election protest at the appropriate time. We will give the details at the right time," Roxas said in an interview.

He said he informed President-elect Noynoy Aquino about his plan to file the protest and the President said "OK."

Binay welcomed the filing of an electoral protest, saying it was Roxas' right to do so. But the vice president appeared irked at the announcement, which came one day after Binay, along with President-Aquino, took his oath of office on Wednesday.

Binay said he is ready and confident that the electoral tribunal would uphold his victory.

"Let's see if he will file. If he files, it's his right," Binay told reporters yesterday.

He said he knew where his canvassers stood, having practiced law before entering politics.

"It just so happened that I am a lawyer so I know how my case is. Let's see what the plan will be," said Binay in an irked tone.

In a separate press statement, Binay's spokesperson JV Bautista said Roxas' protest would likely fail if his camp would insist on counting some 2.6 million null votes in his favor—a petition that the Commission on Elections has already junked.

"If it is true that it is based on the so-called null votes, then we are confident that the electoral tribunal will rule in our favor," Bautista said.

After Congress declared Binay winner of the vice presidential race, Roxas immediately ordered his lawyers to "gather records and evidence, and to study and prepare research the possibility of filing an electoral contest."

In the final congressional tally, Binay got 13,918,490 votes, or 727,884 votes less than Binay's total of 14,646,374 votes. However, the Senator emphasized that more than 2 million "null votes" were not tallied.

Roxas said he has been "lying low" as an exit in deleted accounts from the top electoral victory of President Aquino.

Roxas did not attend the inauguration rites in the Quirino Grandstand of the Rizal Park on Wednesday and he said that he had also toned down his attendance at several public gatherings.

He said he is only attended the recent 50th birthday party of former Senate President Jovito Salonga, an "icon" of the Liberal Party.

Yesterday, he also attended a gathering of overseas Filipino workers from the United States at Hotel Sofitel Saranay he had agreed to join them even before the elections. With reports from Sheryl Quintos-Ado

Mar has Noynoy's ears

By Gil Cabunoc

HE MIGHT HAVE LOST THE VICE presidential race, but former Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II is expected to have more time whispering into the ears of President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino as members from Vice President Jejomar Binay.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said in a press conference that since Binay refused to accept any of the government posts—head of the Metro Manila Development Authority, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, and Department of Agrarian Reform—offered by Aquino," he will have fact, he less than the Aquino-Quezon spent with Senator Roxas."

"Hopefully, Vice President Binay can find a way to work with President Aquino in an official capacity," said Lacierda.

Roxas has covered the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) because it fell within his competency, being the former Makati City mayor, but Aquino has already limited his candidates to three former local government officials, including Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo. Aquino is taking over the DILG post in an interim capacity, as if he has made up his mind on who he would pick for the job.

Lacierda revealed that Aquino would trust Roxas as a senior adviser and as an adviser, but in the meantime that the one-year ban on losing candidates taking government posts would lapse. "I would imagine that Senator Mar Roxas would be advising the President based on his area of competency," said Lacierda.

Roxas was supposed to get a cluster of Cabinet positions if he had won as Vice President, according to Aquino during the campaign. Roxas is expected in the anti-terrorist posture against Binay, a move that is likely to increase tension between the two warring allies of Aquino.

Petron, Shell slash LPG price by ₱2 per kilo

By Amy R. Borres

PHILIPPINE SHELL PETROLEUM Corp. and Petron Corp. have slashed prices of its cooking gas by ₱2 a kilogram effective today to reflect the declining price trend in the international market.

Liquefied petroleum gas retailers also slashed prices of cooking gas but only by 50 centavos per kg, beginning Thursday.

But members companies of the LPG Marketers Association (LPGMA) Inc. noted that the price of an 11-kg LPG cylinder, which is used by most households, is expected to drop by about ₱8, said its president Arnel Ty.

In a phone interview, Ty said that member companies of the LPGMA are now selling their 11-kg LPG tanks at ₱554 from the previous ₱560.

LPGMA member companies, which supply LPG products to an estimated 80 percent of the Luzon market, carry brands such as Island Gas, Regasco Gas, Petrogen Gas, Gas Gas, M Gas, Diwa Gas and Nation Gas.

Ty explained that the decline in LPG retail prices may be attributed to the ₱49 per metric ton decline in the international contract price, which stood at $622 per MT this month, down from the average price of $679 per MT in June.

Osmeña tops list of non-filers of expense reports

By Kristine L. Alave

SELECTED SENATOR SERGIO OSMEÑA III, the losing presidential candidate and 14 senatorial aspirants failed to file their statement of campaign expenditures on time, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) said.

The records of the Comelec's Law Department show that Osmeña, who ran as an independent candidate in the May elections, and John Carlos delos Reyes, presidential candidate of Bisig Kapatiran Party and Ten. Eduardo Villanueva, standard-bearer of Pangasi Pilipinas Party, did not meet the June 24 deadline of submission.

The Synchronized National And Local Elections Law states that "no person elected to any public office shall enter upon the duties of his office until he has filed the statement of contributions and expenditures required."

Hal Bar chief of the Comelec's Law Department, Ferdinand Rubiaro, said the provision did not mean that Osmeña, who had been proclaimed a winner in the elections, could not assume office.

"It will depend on the Senate now on their own rules, an absolute one can sit without. Bing is stationed or not," said Rubiaro in a phone interview.

In the meantime, he said, could use Osmeña's failure to disclose his campaign expenses to question his eligibility to the Senate.

"The matter is not with us [Comelec] anymore. Once we have proclaimed the candidate, we are already out of the equation," Rubiaro said.

Another candidate who failed to file his statement of contributions received and expenses incurred is losing vice presidential candidate Jay Sonza.

Also in the list are losing senatorial candidates Gerry Arcaya (Liberal Party), Sherif Abdul Cadayacadar, Zachariah Alonzo (Bangon Pilipinas), Benny Carreon (Independent), Kris Ingcoco (Bangon Pilipinas), Alma Lazol (Kilusang Bagong Lipunan), Lito Maza (Independent), Adi Nilabolan (Bangon Pilipinas), Raymundo Ocampo (Bangon Pilipinas), Jerito Salparan (Independent), Isabelle Plaza (Ika-Isomalet People's Coalition), Achmi Sinsuat (Ang Kapatiran), Alex Tinsay (Bangon Pilipinas), and Isidro Villanueva (Kilusang Bagong Lipunan).

Losing candidates who did not submit statements face a fine of P1,000 to P10,000 for the first offense and a fine of P1,000 to P50,000 plus lifetime disqualification from public office for the second offense.

Mikey can't represent party-list yet

By Kristine L. Alave

THE PARTYLIST GROUP 4PS [sic] GALING Hoor (4GP) will have to remain without a representative in the House of Representatives for the meantime unless its first nominee, Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, gives way to the second nominee.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) could not proclaim Arroyo, son of former President Macapagal-Arroyo, to represent 4GP because of a pending disqualification case against him, Commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal said.

"We can proclaim the organization since their 1st nominee [Arroyo] is not disqualified but we cannot proclaim the nominee unless the first nominee abdicates the position to the second nominee," he said in a radio interview yesterday.

Arroyo could only assume office if the Comelec junks the disqualification case against him.

4GP, a group that purportedly represents jeepney and security guards, was one of the party-list groups that were proclaimed after the May 10 elections.

The organization's second nominee is former Lubao, Pampanga mayor Irene Pineda, one of Arroyo ally and Pampanga Gov. Lilia Pineda. The governor's husband, Rong, was investigated for his links to illegal numbers game.

Bayan Muna, Abayan and losing senatorial candidates Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza filed disqualification charges against Arroyo, saying he is not a member of the marginalized sector.

The Comelec second division junked the charges against Arroyo, but a motion for reconsideration was filed.

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Per DOH-FDA Permit No. 3884, Series of 2010

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, July 2, 2010
13th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Am 8:4-6, 9-12
Gospel: Mt 9:9-13

As Jesus moved on from there, he saw a man named Matthew at his seat in the customs house, and he said to him, "Follow me." And Matthew got up and followed him. Now it happened, while Jesus was at table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and other sinners joined Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this they said to his disciples, "Why is it that your master eats with tax collectors and sinners?"

When Jesus heard this he said, "Healthy people do not need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and find out what this means: What I want is mercy not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Commentary:

Many tax collectors and other outcasts were said to have met Jesus and his disciples at the table. Some Pharisees saw this and asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such people?"

To call myself a Christian but leave no encounter, consider only my successes, show life with no outcasts: it is to bring the whole difference of Christian into question.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3315, Series of 2010

Horta invites Aquino, Binay to visit East Timor

By Tarra Quismundo

TIMOR-LESTE PRESIDENT JOSE RAMOS-Horta yesterday invited President Aquino and Vice President Jejomar Binay to visit his country, saying it was about time Philippine leaders did so.

"I hope that (under the new administration, we can further enhance the very unique relationship) I said President Kearney that I have been in the Philippines some 20 times already. It is time for a Filipino president or vice president to come and visit Timor-Leste," Horta, who was wearing a yellow-silver pin on his coat, told reporters after visiting Binay in his office yesterday afternoon.

A longtime friend of the Pinoy people, Horta led the foreign dignitaries who witnessed the inauguration of Aquino and Binay on Wednesday at Rizal Park.

He was last in the country in August 2009 to attend the funeral of Aquino's late mother, former President Corazon Aquino.

Filipino troops have been part of a United Nations stabilization force in Timor-Leste, a former Portuguese colony occupied by Indonesia until 2002.

Horta said the Philippines and Timor-Leste, both predominantly Catholic nations, shared a "very strong bond."

Filipino peacekeeping forces have been helping maintain peace and order in Timor-Leste, and many other Filipinos work and live there, he said.

"I'm very honored and pleased to be here to meet with the Vice President," Horta said. "I couldn't fail to come to pay my respects and also invite him to visit Timor-Leste. He accepted the invite, and we will see when it could materialize," Binay said separately that he had yet to see when he would make the visit.

"He extended an invitation to (the) Timor ... land (so the Malasi) can help them in education and health services," the former mayor of Makati City said.

Healthcare system

Binay said Horta had inquired about Makati's healthcare system, an admired social service program where the city government allots subsidies to citizens.

Horta, in turn, said he briefed Binay "on conditions in my country".

"The economy of Timor-Leste is doing very well from oil and gas ... It's very peaceful now," he said.

The exchange lasted less than 30 minutes.

INVITATION TO VISIT Malasi Lazimate for Peace and East Timor President Jose Ramos-Horta pays a courtesy call on Vice President Jejomar Binay in his office at the PNB Building in Pasay.

First Igorot bishop, martial law foe dies; 81

From page A1

BISHOP FRANCISCO CLAVER

claimed with eloquent words, spoken and written, in all arenas of human life. Who can take his place? My tears flow."

The pipe-smoking Claver was one of the first bishops to speak out against the martial law regime of Ferdinand Marcos, adamantly supporting the claims of the Kalinga-Apayao people against the World Bank-funded Chico hydroelectric power project in the Cordillera region in the mid-1970s.

The tribal rising amid fears that the project would lead to widespread displacement and desecration of native burial grounds led to the murder of Mabiling Dulag, a Kalinga healer and government rural worker, allegedly by Philippine Army troops in 1980.

The project that exhausted and meant nothing for neglected natives but the benefit of Chinese landowners was scrapped in 1981.

Colleagues recall Claver's numerous entries in pastoral letters and statements of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

Creative nonviolence

As head of the Institute on Church and Social Issues (ICSI), Claver drafted the bishops' statement denouncing the 1969 snap elections and calling on the people to find "creative" and "nonviolent" to dismantle the dictatorship he had criticized from the beginning.

The ICSI set out to website that the statements were the culmination of Claver's academic work and helped precipitate the People Power Revolution that ousted Marcos weeks after the "snap" elections.

Claver died today after President Aquino, son of the woman who toppled the Church activist and inspired the idea I worldview, took his oath of office as the country's 15th president.

Bishop Cisco

Known as Bishop Cisco, Claver was born in Bontoc, Mountain Province, on Jan. 20, 1929. He became a Jesuit priest in 1961 at the age of 32. He received his bachelor's and licentiate degree in sacred Theology from Woodstock College in Maryland and obtained his doctorate degree in anthropology from the University of Colorado.

He was appointed bishop of Malaybalay in Bukidnon during the Marcos regime and served as chair of the Episcopal Commission for Indigenous Peoples and the Commission for Justice and Peace.

He also wrote in The Communicator, a Jesuit publication shut down by the martial law regime for printing articles critical of the government.

His last post was Vicar Apostolic of Bontoc-Lagawe, his hometown. While in retirement, Claver wrote for CBCP Monitor, CBCP's official newspaper.

Voice with conscience

Even in sickness, Claver continued to preach about social justice. His last columns for the Monitor, which was published a month before the May 10 elections, urged Filipinos to vote with their conscience.

As the same time, he chided some bishops for publicly supporting candidates in the elections, saying this clouded the will of the people.

"In 1986, the bishops judged that the snap election was fraudulent and condemned it and Marcos' continued rule. But we also made sure to call on everyone to discern and judge the polls on their own. We told people that if they agreed with our judgment, then they should pray and act together to correct the wrong," Claver wrote.

Church officials should be prudent during elections, he said, avoiding that the task of the prelates was to educate the voters.

"We must be mindful of our influence and make sure we do not stifle people's conscience, for that we educate it," he said. "But when the people start acting in their own way and at their level against the many corrupt practices of Philippine politics, that is when the real socio-change takes place with the corresponding change of the values of the people."

Crossword puzzles

In musings, the late prelate was often seen with his pipe, a pencil, and a crossword puzzle, said former CBCP president and Archbishop Emeritus Oscar Cruz. "So I owe Claver much," the Ozamiz diocese shepherd said, he would always miss his hands and talk 48-call questions, Cruz said.

Cruz and Claver had a sharp, crackling mind and a big heart whose life work centered on social justice. He had zero tolerance for dishonesty and corruption. Report of government thieves would often save him "boiling mad," Cruz said.

"When I speak of the late bishop Claver, I speak with my heart in my hands. I mean sincerely what I say. This man was not only very learned especially in the matters of theology and ecclesiology but on questions of humanities," Cruz said.

"Together with certain Jesuits, he was very aware of the social dilemmas of the Church, human life, human dignity and human rights were his force."

Claver's remains will be in state at the Loyola House of Studies at Ateneo de Manila University. The body will be brought to Bontoc on Saturday and will return to Manila on Tuesday, Mbot said. The funeral is scheduled on Wednesday afternoon.

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

June 28, 2010

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

R.A. 7722 otherwise known as the **"Higher Education Act of 1994"**, empowers the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to supervise and regulate all higher education institutions, both public and private. This was explicitly different through the Department of Justice (DOJ) Opinion No. 72 series of 2008 maintaining the authority jurisdiction of the CHED over State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs).

In view thereof, the CHED and the Philippine Regulations Commission (PRC) jointly issued CHED PRC Circular No. 01, series of 2010 ordering all State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs) to secure a permit or authority from the CHED for their board programs without which the PRC shall not submit applicants for licensure examinations from those educational institutions which failed to comply with the aforesaid Circular effective January 2011.

By virtue of the foregoing, and to ensure the protection of the rights and interests of the general public, this Notice is hereby issued to all SUCs and LUCs to unanimously secure CHED permits for their existing board programs otherwise, they shall no longer be allowed to operate the same after January 2011. Moreover, graduates of a particular board program without authority from the CHED shall not be issued Special Order which is a requirement by the PRC to allow graduates to take the board examinations.

Likewise, the SUCs and LUCs are further notified to secure authority/approval from the CHED for the operation of other higher education programs in order that their students will be recognized as graduates and thus issued Special Order to graduates, without which their students will not be recognized as having graduated thereon.

Consequently, the Public is hereby advised not to enroll in both board and non-board programs of public higher education institutions that have not been granted the necessary authority/permit from the Commission. They are further advised to inquire from CHED Officer-in-charge on the status of the permits/government authorities of higher education programs of a particular SUC or LUC before enrolling therein.

Finally, to ensure that board programs of SUCs and LUCs have the necessary authority from CHED, a joint CHED PRC DELG team will be dispatched to conduct inspection and evaluation of their board program offerings to determine compliance with the CHED Policies, Standards and Guidelines governing the operation of these programs.

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Party-list groups warn Comelec of bad precedent

By Leila B. Salaverria

DOMINGO OF MINDANAO PARTY-LIST groups who are prevented from sitting in congress because of pending disqualification cases against them yesterday warned that the Commission on Elections is not only degrading their constitutional rights and representation, but also setting a dangerous precedent.

Patricio Alcover of the Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy said that if this is the rule that the Comelec will follow, there may be no party-list that would be able to sit in the next Congress since groups might just file disqualification cases against each other.

"What is happening now is a very bad precedent. If this is not resolved, after the next election there may be no party-list group that would be able to sit in Congress. We might just file disqualification cases so that nobody would be able to sit. We might seek the disqualification of the other party-list," Alcover said at the Kamps Iserum in Quezon City.

Militant party-list groups have sought the disqualification of Akbayan, Anakpawis, Bayan Muna, Gabriela, Kabataan and Migrante, saying they violate the law prohibiting groups backed by armed movements from participating in elections.

Amid it among the groups whose prosecution the Comelec has withheld while it resolves petitions seeking to disqualify them.

Another such group whose victory has yet to be proclaimed is Ako Bicol, the top vote getter in the party-list race.

Ako Bicol chairman Alfredo Garbin asked the poll body to proclaim the group as well as other party-list organizations facing disqualification cases, saying Supreme Court cases have said that technicalities must yield to the will of the electorate.

Garbin also noted that the disqualification cases against the group were filed only after the elections.

"I hope they will respect the votes that the 11 party-list groups got, which is approximately seven million votes," he said.

Another Ako Bicol nominee, Rodel Batocabe, said some groups who went over seats in Congress or who want to get in may be pushing for the disqualification of winning groups.

Batocabe said that if Ako Bicol and other front-running groups are disqualified, the threshold necessary to get a congress seat would be lowered.

Gov't opens door to talks with rebels

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE AQUINO ADMINISTRATION HAS already sent informal messages to communist rebels and Muslim secessionist saying there is room to the negotiating table, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Deles said yesterday.

Deles, speaking to reporters on her first full day in her new position yesterday morning, said that she had already sent messages to members of the National Democratic Front-Communist Party of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front so that peace negotiations could resume.

She added that the Aquino administration was committed to providing a "negotiated settlement" to the long-running communist insurgency around the country and the Muslim secessionist movement in Mindanao.

"Negotiated political settlement is the only way to bring real closure to armed conflict," she said. "Clearly the negotiations will happen."

Top of Noynoy agenda

"The peace process is very much on top of the agenda and is President Aquino's promises of change and hope for the Filipino people," Deles said.

"If you had listened to (Aquino's) inauguration on (Wednesday), he promised to be sincere to all the people of (Mindanao, whether Bangsamoro, Lumad and Christian and that he is committed to negotiated settlement of all armed conflicts," she added.

She also disclosed that the government would set up a compensation fund for thousands of people displaced by deadly fighting between troops and Muslim rebels in 2008.

Potential donors from the international community had already expressed interest in contributing to the pool of money although the specifics of the fund had yet to be worked out, Deles said.

"(The fund) will be spent on housing, immediate livelihood and of course on the health problems still lingering and whatever else is needed so they have option to go home to," she said.

"There is a lot of international support going to this area. Some of them (the donors) have already spoken to me."

Displaced

Deles said the immediate beneficiaries would be the estimated 25,000 families still displaced after separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels launched attacks across Mindanao in 2008.

The attacks were carried out in retaliation against a Supreme Court decision that rejected a proposed deal that would have given the group control over territories it claims as part of its "ancestral domain."

More than 700,000 people were displaced at the height of the fighting, triggering a humanitarian disaster.

Almost 400 civilians and fighters from both sides were also killed.

The Philippines has been fighting dual insurgencies by communists and Muslim separatists since the late 1960s. The internal security risk has delayed development of parts of the country, particularly in provinces in remote rich Mindanao.

Peace talks with the communist-led NDF and the MILF (the largest Muslim rebel group, have been a stop-start process and acceptable deals remain elusive.

Muslim rebels have been fighting for self-determination and an ancestral homeland in Mindanao for more than 40 years. They have said they want negotiations with the new government.

Last month, a members of the communist rebel party panel said they were ready to resume negotiations with the new government and were awaiting overtures from Aquino.

The Moro guerrillas have attacked plantations, mines, timber concessions, conservation projects and telecommunications facilities to extort money to finance their rebellion.

Deles previously served as peace adviser for two years until 2005, when she resigned along with nine other government officials.

With reports from AFP/Reuters

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Graft raps filed against GMA; NBN-ZTE revisited

From page A1

son on Election Chief Benjamin Abalos Sr. were charged by the Ombudsman.

The complaint filed by Castillo and fellow Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Javier Colmenares said Arroyo violated Republic Act No. 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act of 1960, RA 6713 or the 1989 Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, RA 9184 or the Government Procurement Act of 2003, and provisions of the Revised Penal Code such as those pertaining to qualified bribery and obstruction of justice.

Leave no stones unturned

Castillo said it would be up to the DOJ to endorse the case to the Ombudsman, which in turn would decide if it should go to the Sandiganbayan. Colmenares said the DOJ and the Ombudsman have an opportunity to "leave no stones unturned, in order for a successful prosecution to be pursued," Castillo said.

The two lawmakers said they disagreed with the Ombudsman's theory that Arroyo had absolute immunity when she was president. They said Arroyo's immunity did not extend to the acts or misbehavior committed before or after her presidency. If she were immune from lawsuit, they added, then she is "certainly not immune from investigation."

"The dismissal of the criminal complaint against Arroyo by the Ombudsman on the ground of immunity shows the lack of intention to seriously investigate her and was without legal basis," the two said in their complaint.

Their accusations against Arroyo were culled mainly from the reports of the Senate investigation into the National Broadband Network (NBN) project with Chinese ZTE corp. to wire the country's homes to the Internet.

Litany of alleged crimes

Castillo and Colmenares said Arroyo violated Section 3 of RA 3019 when she:

- Ordered or at the very least induced Neri and other public officials to approve the ZTE contract despite the circumstances of bribery and other irregularities affecting it.
- Received material benefits from the ZTE contract when she played golf at the ZTE headquarters and other material considerations.
- Was very partial to the ZTE as shown by the grant of preferences to it, the termination of ZTE officials to attend a Cabinet meeting, among others.
- Neglected to investigate the irregularities involved in the ZTE contract despite knowledge that overpricing and irregularities attended it.
- Had interest for personal gain in the NBN contract since the contract is approved and awarding to ZTE despite the overpricing.

Arroyo, the lawmakers said, was also liable for violations of the penal code:

- Article 215-A, for qualified bribery when she refrained from attending or prosecuting all those involved in corrupt acts in connection with the NBN project in exchange for sums of, for, promise or gift.
- Article 212, for corruption of public officials.
- Article 213, for entering into the ZTE contract to "defraud" the Philippine government.
- Article 216, for possession of prohibited interest by public officers, for allegedly entering into the contract despite her and her husband's material interest therein.

No need for commission

The two lawmakers said the case should also be considered administrative in nature so she could be suspended as lawmaker and even have her retirement pay withheld.

They added that the DOJ should also determine the liability, if any, of other people involved in the contract, such as former First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, former Executive Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Department of Transportation and Communications officials and ZTE executives.

Castillo said he and Colmenares would not wait for President Aquino's formal creation of a truth commission to be headed by former Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to investigate the anomalies of the Arroyo administration.

"The NBN-ZTE case is well-documented and there are lots of testimonies. It doesn't need to wait for the truth commission, which should focus on things such as extrajudicial killings and other human rights violations," he said.

"This will be a test case, the first of many steps to the filing of plunder against Arroyo-she are consolidated all other complaints such as the fertilizer fund scam, Hello Garci scandal, the Philhealth cards woo-hoo money spree and the Trouble contract," Castillo said.

No witch-hunt

In a press conference, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda yesterday said that the truth commission would not "be a witch-hunt nor "in-act of vengeance."

He pointed out that the commission was necessary because all efforts to unlock the truth in the NBN-ZTE deal, fertilizer scam and "Hello Garci" scandal were thwarted by the moves of Arroyo and high government officials.

With access to these documents, Lacierda said it would not be difficult to prosecute Arroyo especially if there was enough evidence. With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FIRST CASE VS GMA. Bayan Muna Representatives Teddy Casiño and Neri Colmenares file a graft complaint against Pampanga Rep. Gloria Arroyo in the Department of Justice. AP/BOBBY TIMONERA

US EQUITY FUND

RP war vets get $188M

By Cynthia D. Balana

OVER $188 MILLION HAS BEEN awarded to eligible Filipino World War II veterans from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation (FVEC) Fund as of June 1, according to the Philippine embassy in Washington.

Of the claims, 7,603 (38.48 percent) were approved for Filipino veterans based in the Philippines, while the remaining 7,995 (19.48 percent) were for those living in the United States. Applications received numbered 41,304.

There are 7,969 (19.34 percent) pending claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs which are currently being verified through the appropriate service department at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri. The NPRC serves as the Army's records custodian.

Denied applications for compensation totalled 17,832, or 42.89 percent. Of this number, the Manila Regional Office reported that it has received 1,761 States of Denials.

In its report to the home office, the embassy said that the "Veterans Affairs Office is continuously conducting outreach programs to aid veterans with denied applications to go through the appeals process.

The US Department of Veterans Affairs encloses a 88 Form 4138, "Your Rights to Appeal Our Decision," in the FVEC notification letter co-copies options available to those with denied claims.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) approved in February 2009 included a provision to address a 63 year-old injustice for Filipino WWII veterans. Specifically, the bill provided a lump sum payment of $15,000 to Filipino veterans living in the US and $9,000 for those who live abroad. The payment is in response to the 1946 Rescission Act, which stripped benefits from Filipino WWII veterans. Such benefits include healthcare, disability pensions, and burial expenses, now essential for the surviving Filipino veterans and their families.

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Weather to get better, but it will still rain

By Alcuin Papa

WEATHER CONDITIONS IN THE COUNtry, particularly in Metro Manila, are due to improve in the next several days, but the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) also said there could still be some rain.

According to its Thursday morning weather update, PAGASA said the low-pressure area that has been dumping rains on Luzon for the past few days is slowly moving away from the country.

It was spotted at 3 a.m. Thursday at 240 kilometers west of Iba, Zambales.

Also, the intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ) is affecting Mindanao.

Because of these conditions, Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

The rest of the country, including Luzon and Metro Manila, will have partly cloudy and at times, cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Robert Zoleta, Pagasa chief weather forecaster, had said he expects the weather to improve in the next few days.

"We expect the weather to clear up because the low pressure area is moving away," said Iseta. "So for Metro Manila, we still have good weather in the next several days."

Early Wednesday morning, rain fell on the Quirino Grandstand hours before the noon inauguration of President Aquino. But no rain fell during the ceremonies.

The Pagasa had earlier advised guests and the general public attending the inauguration to bring their umbrellas.

The ITCZ is a region along the equator where winds from the northern and southern hemisphere meet, forming clouds and rain.

A low pressure area is a weaker form of a tropical cyclone.

TV anchor, PDI columnist eyed for Palace post

By Christine O. Avendaño

TELEVISION NEWS ANCHOR RICO Carandang and business columnist Manolo Quezon are among those being considered to head the communications department that would replace the office of the Press Secretary under the Aquino administration.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Lacierda was asked yesterday to confirm reports that it was either Carandang of ABS-CBN or Quezon who will head the communications department.

"I cannot confirm but their names were mentioned...But there is no action yet," Lacierda told reporters.

Lacierda said there will be someone to be appointed as head of the communications department but he or she would not be called as press secretary.

"Somebody has to be accountable to the President," he said.

He said Malacañang was still finalizing the structure of the communications department.

"We are nearly there," he said.

The day before the inauguration of President Aquino, both Carandang and Quezon were seen at the Presidente at his Times Street residence in Quezon City.

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No surprise: GMA, son file Cha-cha resolution

By [illegible]

matthew that Rep. Divalinda Arnaiz, filed House Resolution No. 4 calling for a constituent assembly convention (Con-ass) to propose amendments to the 1987 Constitution (Cha-cha).

The move members of Cha-cha during Arroyo's days in power did was enough to drive militants into the streets and some chauvinists to the pulpits to denounce such a measure as intended to perpetuate her in power.

This time, she is on the other side of the trenches.

The lawmaker's move to Malacañang aren't worried, saying they have the numbers to quash the Arroyo proposal if they believe it is not the time to revive the Charter.

Cha-cha is her heart

"We are aware that her heart has always been in amend the Constitution. That is not a surprise, that is something we will deal with together with our partners in the House," presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda told reporters. "It is something that we are not bothered with, it is something we expected from the start."

Lacierda said that Cha-cha was "matter of numbers in Congress" and said if the Aquino administration succeeded in convincing members of the House that amending the Constitution would be unlikely. "Then that will be dead in the water."

"Ukoha is trying to test the waters," said Ramon Casiple, executive director of the Institute for Political and Electoral Reforms. "It's one way of polling members of the House and find out whether she still has the numbers."

"Her proposal to change the Constitution could be a rallying point for congressmen who will not get positions under the Liberal Party-led House leadership," Casiple said.

Other analysts said that while the Arroyo resolution poses no direct threat to the presidency of Senator Aquino III, an early push to oil Cha-cha could hobble Aquino's legislative agenda at a time when he needs his reform program to take off.

Con-con is least divisive

Staff members of the Arroyos filed the resolution on their behalf on the first working day of the 15th Congress.

Cha-cha measures initiated by Arroyo's allies triggered storms during the 14th Congress, with her critics accusing her of trying to alter the 1987 Constitution to hold on to power.

They alleged that Arroyo, also a former senator and threatened several times with impeachment during her presidency, wanted to switch to a parliamentary system that she would then dominate as prime minister.

House Resolution No. 4 states that the various proposals put forward to change the Constitution are vital in addressing the people's needs and in realizing the country globally competitive.

It says the changes are best undertaken through the Con-con, convened anchor—the constitutional convention. The other proposed modes for revising the Charter are through a constituent assembly and through a people's initiative.

"Calling for a constitutional convention to propose amendments or revisions of the Constitution is the least divisive and the most transparent, exhaustive and democratic means of implementing constitutional reforms," the resolution reads.

"The Con-con resolution contains certain provisions which have outlived their purpose and need to be revisited to institute much-needed socio-economic and political reforms," it adds.

REP. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

REP. EXEQUIEL B. ARROYO

Electing delegates to the Con-con would also allay concerns that sitting officials would just want to take advantages of the circumstances and changes.

"The draft frame of proportioning any vested interests among the incumbent elected officials, the election of delegates to the constitutional convention is unnecessary and desirable," the resolution says.

No cause for concern

Sen. Aquino's ally Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada of the Liberal Party said Arroyo's proposal was not a cause for concern but added that the party would have to study again its longstanding position supporting a Con-con.

Tañada said the Arroyo proposal would go through the legislative mill like any other measures. The Liberal Party also expects to have one of its members chair the House committee on constitutional amendments.

The party for 14 years, has opposed calls for a constitutional convention to propose changes in the Constitution, Tañada noted.

"There are new members that have to be consulted and there are matters to be discussed," Tañada said in a phone interview. "In the meant to decide like the administration at this early stage? Are the situations attained? We don't really know but the party has to study the issue, especially the political backdrop."

He also said Arroyo's detention in Cha-cha resolution was not a surprise because during the campaign, she cited constitutional reform as one of her advocacies.

Cat out of the bag

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said that Arroyo's move was to cause for alarm, adding the threat of her eventually becoming a prime minister remained because Filipinos might just bash her candidacy to gain more power for themselves.

"That's precisely one of the reasons she ran for Congress. The cat is out of the bag," Casiño said. "Remember, many congressmen were Cha-cha is order to abolish the senate and make Congress more powerful."

Another Liberal Party stalwart, Muntinlupa Rep. Ruffy Biazon, is proposing that the question of whether there should be a constitutional convention in the first place should be thrown to the people in a referendum.

"Let's relieve Congress of this issue," Biazon said. "If the people say they don't want (a constitutional convention), let's stop it. If they say yes, we push for it with a new mandate."

LP control

The Liberal Party is expected to control the House in the new Congress by forming alliances with members of other parties.

Party officials have said they are confident of getting the reinvoked majority of the 287 lawmakers in their Quezon City Rep. Sonny Belmonte, a Liberal Party stalwart, as Speaker.

Arroyo also filed a bill that seeks to ban the contracting, subcontracting, promotion, transportation and exportation of all deaths and acts in the country.

She also filed bills establishing a framework for performance and development of the education system and establishing a Department of Education and Training; amending the law that created the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao; amending the Philippine trade establishing farmation stations at workplaces; penalizing driving under the influence of alcohol, fraudulently extortion; and creating the Department of Housing, Planning and Urban Development.

Aquino goes to work without 'wangwang'; Binay doesn't approve

By [illegible]

bus, black sport utility vehicles and a clutch of police escorts on motorcycles.

From Quezon Avenue to Sctarda Avenue, Magsaysay Boulevard and the 18 flag gate of Malacañang, the convoy stopped on all red traffic lights and passed through all 11 lanes and left turns.

Mr. Aquino reached his office in 20 minutes or a comfortable cruising speed.

Binay disagrees

But Vice President Jejomar Binay is not impressed at all at the President's widespread order.

"Can you imagine a President stuck up in traffic for hours?" he told reporters during a thanksgiving dinner he hosted on Wednesday in Makati City.

Binay said that being the President, he should be allowed to enjoy the privilege of having streets and escorts on his way to an urgent appointment.

He cited protocols in the United States saying that the motorcade the president's convoy leaves the airport, all traffic lights along its route take turns going red to stop motorists.

"He is the President. He don't want him to be always late," Binay said.

But he clarified that he was not against the order. "I just want them not to totally ban streets and qualify which it should be used by VIPs and public officials," he said.

The ban, Binay said, must apply only to officials who wake up late and there are the means to squeeze their way out of the traffic. "Who are they? They are the ones to be disciplined," he said.

'Wet a minor issue'

The issue is not so minor as it may seem, Paciñapao Rep. Benjo Benitez said. The strict implementation of the nine-an-inning rooms could very well lead to the stoppage of bigger displays of government and abuse of power, he said.

Mr. Aquino's call against "wangwang" and traffic constraffers "is probably the hottest part" of his inaugural speech, Gobby said the Satyr Estero in Quezon City. "It is symbolic. It addresses something that's very visible and very audible. It's something we witness every day."

Gobez said he was reminded of fixation Show York City Mayor Fiorello La Guardia who waged a war against graffiti. In getting after those who defaced walls and building, Giuliani also helped stop crime because some of the people responsible for the graffiti were also involved in other transgressions, he said.

Some of those who use streets illegally may also be from the underworld and could be drug lords or illegal gambling czars, he added.

PD 96

Law enforcers yesterday reminded the public that the ban has been in force since 1975 when the dictator Ferdinand Marcos issued Presidential Decree No. 96.

The decree prohibits the use of "any siren, bell, horn, whistle or other similar gadgets that produce exceptionally loud or annoying sounds, including those lights, blinkers and other devices signaling or flashing devices" by vehicles other than that of the military police, bomb and ambulances. The trucks, the National Bureau of investigation and the Land Transportation Commissioner, provisions of the Land Transportation Office.

Offenders caught for the first time will result in immediate confiscation of the devices, while subsequent violations will be prosecuted before a multary tribunal, which can impose a penalty of six months imprisonment, a P600 fine and revocation of the owner's vehicle registration.

Unauthorized government vehicles are also included in the ban, said Angelito Vejad de Dios, Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) executive director. He said that his agency would be stepping up the drive against blaring sirens.

De Dios said the ban should have been implemented "a long time ago," but the MMDA had deliberately stopping particular vehicles because drivers were not yielding to authority. The head de Dios said he could do was to let the violator's license plate and forward it to the LTO so that the offense could be recorded and its owner fined prior to the renewal of its vehicle license.

Unusual order

Col. Rainier Muñoz Dilan, chief of the Presidential Security Group, said that Mr. Aquino's order is "very unusual and difficult to enforce, especially when his main concern was security."

"But we have no choice since that is what he wants. We will adjust," he said.

Lacierda added Mr. Aquino's inaugural speech, the Philippine National Police (PNP) directed its officials to prohibit motorists of public officials from using sirens in their motorcade.

Commenting on the PNP's directive based on Aquino's statement, Binay said: "I am telling you, they cannot implement it. How can you arrest an official who is on his way to a shooting incident? Everyone will be dead. I will have that official arrested."

Binay, who had served as Makati mayor for over 20 years, said 200. Aquino should make an exemption to officials responding to emergency situations.

"I was a hotel official myself and I was there whenever somebody calls me up and tells me there's a shooting incident or a fire or hostage-taking incident, I needed to be at the scene on time," he said.

OVERNIGHT AT TIMOG STREET. President Aquino leaves his residence on Thursday morning and boards one of his Land Cruiser.

Impact on masses

In a press conference, Mr. Aquino's spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said the speech of the President on issues and controversies had really made an impact on the masses.

He said the President would not only be a stickler for the rule of law but would also be a "workaholic" and a "hands-on" manager. Mr. Aquino has already told his Cabinet members that there should be no absence a month and that he trusted them to run their departments properly, he said.

Although Mr. Aquino used to be a late riser, Lacierda said his boss has changed his daily routine and has already been waking up early in the morning. Lacierda added he was forced to wake up early to cover as many provinces as he could in three months.

Waiting for Pangasap renovation

With his decision to stay at Timog while the Arroyo's Pangasap renovation is finished, Lacierda said the President would have to wake up much earlier in order to beat the traffic going to Malacañang.

Lacierda said he had not yet been informed on how Mr. Aquino intended to juggle his time between Malacañang and the office of the Department of the Interior and Local Government which he has decided to hold on an interim capacity.

Reports by Jess Diaz, Mike Frialde and Gaille R. Subasa-reyes

Jojo finds office too spare, small, chair too big, 'only for 6-footers'

By [illegible]

Binay might well have missed his swank office in his former kingdom, Makati City.

The longtime mayor of the Philippines' prime city and the proud builder of Makati City filled with its top-of-the-line office furnishings is now calling home in a modest office occupying half of the seventh floor of the Philippine National Bank building in Pasay City.

Speaking with reporters, Binay said he intended to operate on his home constituency. "Mahirap ko rin naman iyan eh (tough on me also)," he said.

He groused to his staff during their first official meeting, "You're the Vice President but you can't even build office on the entire floor."

Settling on his condemned office, he found the seat too wide for comfort.

"Can I have the chair fixed too?" he said in Filipino, cracking up the entire room. "With my size, I can't use my back. Here (Sid Jimmer Vice President of the Senate) do it? This is only for 6-footers."

'Kontring pabang'

Binay had earlier said he wanted to hold office elsewhere, most likely at Coconut Palace in the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex.

The lavish mansion built during the Marcos era has been serving as a guest house for dignitaries and a popular venue for weddings.

The old, five-level Makati City Hall across from the glass-paneled, 32-story edifice that Binay had built was the first choice, but he joked that he was having trouble getting permission from the new mayor, his son and namesake Jejomar Binay.

"Bigay mo kasi ring sa kanila, 'bong ding yang amalin (There has to be a bit of negotiate, but not too much)," Binay said of the purported necessity of a push office. "There must be dignity commensurate to the occupant of the office."

To his staff, he complained that the Vice President's office is limited to a "square city" in government, did not have a penthouse office and an official residence.

"A provincial governor has a governor's mansion. The Vice President comes home to his own home," he said, chiding laughter in the conference room.

Paintings, etc.

Binay said he had asked his wife Elenita's help to make his new office more pleasing.

He said he would add more paintings on the lone frame hanging on the wall to the right of his desk, and might well ask for the art-restoration to be done.

"It's a bit scary. Maybe we have to lower the blinds," he said.

Binay also bemoaned that the Vice President's office was running on a budget of P187 million, smaller than his average barangay budget of P250 million.

"The money I left to my successor (Mayor Jejomar Binay) is P11 billion," he said, adding in jest: "I'll get a rush coming here."

According to the staff, the Vice President has had no official vehicle since the time of Former Minister Cesar Virata (1986).

Binay then gave instructions to check what the office lacked, and said he would ask Malacañang for support.

Management style

Sitting the general meeting, Binay told the members of his new staff that he would run the office as if he were in the private sector—a management style he employed as mayor of Makati for more than two decades.

In an exchange marked by both light banter and serious talk, he told them to report on him the minute he that the Vice President was a spare tire.

"Tin the No. 2 man in the executive department. Our only difference with the President is Power Minister Cesar Virata (1986).

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"Tin the No. 2 man in the executive department. Our only difference with the President is Power Minister Cesar Virata (1986).

JBC opens nomination for SC

By Jerome Aning

THE JUDICIAL AND BAR COUNCIL (JBC) has announced that applications and nominations for the four vacancy in the Supreme Court can be submitted only up to July 5.

The JBC has opened the selection process of nine members of the Supreme Court following the retirement of Justice Chief Justice Reynato Puno and his replacement by Senior Associate Justice Renato Corona today.

The vacancy must be filled within 90 days after it occurs, that is, on the present case, beginning May 17.

The JBC also opened the nominations and applications for associate justice seats in the anti-graft court Sandiganbayan. Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Godofredo Legaspi, who reached mandatory retirement age on Feb. 22 but died on April 6.

The screening of nominees for existing vacancies has already started.

Most applicants or "recommendees" in the posts are required to submit six copies each of their applications or recommendation letter, notarized personal data sheet, sworn statement of assets and liabilities and net worth, certified true copy of their income tax return for the past two years, 250 clearances from the National Bureau of Investigation, the Ombudsman and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), proofs of age and Philippine citizenship, 2010 police clearance from place of residence, results of medical examination and sworn medical certificate with impressions on each results, and Certificate of Good Standing or Letter Affixed except from the BP National Treasury.

The JBC normally has eight members, including the Chief Justice, who votes only to break.

However, it now only has six members, after two of its ex-officio members, being Justice Secretary Alberto Agra and Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera, declined their votes on June 30.

Former University of the Visayas dean Amado Dimaranan, a regular member representing the academe, will retire on July 9, leaving the JBC with only five members.

The two are Corona, ex-officio member, Sen. Pressie Revilla and regular members retired Supreme Court associate Justice Regino Hermosisima Jr., private sector representative retired Associate Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura and the IBP representative, Lawyer J. Conrado Limbo.

Despite its thin ranks, the JBC can still convene and vote on the nominees since it can still constitute a quorum with five members.

Corona had said he had to convene the JBC soon because Aquino only had 90 days to make the appointment. He disclosed that the nomination process might take more than one month to finish.

The JBC meets every Monday to discuss matters involving the filling of vacancies in the judicial department.

'Sleeping on the job' pays off for Ilocos solon's aide

By Leila B. Salaverria

THEY BEGAN LINING UP AT the lobby of the Batasang Pambansa as early as three weeks ago in a race for the chairmanship of Bldg. House Bill No. 10—the first proposed legislation in the new House of Representatives.

The house head is Davao Rep. Isidro Siegum, whose staff member Gary Rabena, walked out the House bills and index section as early as June 10.

Rabena slept at the premises to keep his place in the line, and only went home to get a change of clothes.

The staff members of Quezon Rep. Irvin Alcala and Marinduque Rep. Rodolfo Magsar were second and third in line.

Singapore's PM 11 quickly to grant tax exemptions to the importers and manufacturers of hybrid vehicles, a rarity in the Philippines. Singapore owns a hybrid car, according to his staff.

Hybrid cars are expensive but some parties champion their use, contending they are energy more efficiently.

PDEI bill

Also filed yesterday was the Freedom of Information (FOI) bill, authored by Davao Metro Rep. Theodoro Casiño. The measure is designed to ensure transparency in government transactions by giving the public easier access to government documents.

Hopes for the FOI bill were dashed during the last working day of the 15th Congress because the lack of quorum essentially.

Casiño, who personally filed his bill, said he considered his measure stronger because it has a more forceful provision on mandatory compliance, a clause on declassifying information, and a shortened period for government agencies to disclose requested information.

Casiño and Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares also filed a bill granting protection to whistle blowers.

Human rights

Albanay Rep. Nicholas Bello filed a bill close to the heart of President Benigno Aquino III—the bill seeks to give compensation to the victims of human rights violations during the reign of Ferdinand Marcos.

Aquino's parents played major roles in ousting Marcos from power.

"One biggest fear is that with three Marcoses back in power, and in the prime legislative seats, they would have greater leverage to strike agreements or deals with the government that will mute their family's denial of all the human rights abuses from the martial law period and leave the victims without any consolation or justice," Bello said.

Marcos widow Imelda is now a representative. The Marcoses' son Ferdinand Jr. is a senator, while daughter Imee is a provincial governor.

Noy checks coffers; Cabinet hit ground running

From page A1

"This will be a full-court press," Pichitino said, using a basketball analogy.

"We will continue, but implement more vigorously the existing programs against tax evaders and corrupt revenue officials with help from the Department of Justice," he said in reference to the programs dubbed Run After Tax Evaders, Run After The Smugglers and Revenue Integrity Protection Service.

"Short there will be no watchlist," Pichitino said. "We will not discriminate on height, weight, race, color or gender."

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Secretary Br. Armin Luistro FSC will address the chronic shortages plaguing the school system even with the assistance of the DOF.

"My marching orders were: In the last two years, fill up the backlog in classrooms, teachers and textbooks," Luistro said, adding that the DOF would employ "creative ways" to make funds available.

He also said "a portion" of the lawmakers' pork barrel funds "could be diverted to fund only education projects."

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) Secretary Enrique Ona will undertake the expansion of the coverage of the government-run Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) to "100 percent within three years."

The DOH plans to increase to 75 percent the current PhilHealth coverage of 20-48 per cent of a member's health care expenses.

"What we want is where you're hospitalized, your expenses will be down to just 20 percent (of the hospital bill)... Reducing a patient's out-of-pocket expenses is our target," Ona said, stressing the need to "compel Filipinos to enroll" in PhilHealth.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Secretary Proceso Alcala will review farm productivity and rice importation programs in order to determine whether announced targets could be reached.

For now, Alcala is sticking to the target of achieving self-sufficiency in rice by 2013. He said imports would be lowered each year and may be stopped or at least "minimized" by that year.

"We will review our programs to ensure that we only import what we need and that we prioritize increased production rather than importation. As for the rice self-sufficiency program, we will see how this can be further improved. We will continue existing programs if they are yielding results," Alcala said.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY Secretary Gregory Domingo is keen on delivering "very significant results" as it focuses on jobs creation, a better business environment, free trade and consumer protection.

"I will try to wake up the sleeping dogs, (hopefully they don't bite. We have a big task ahead of us," Domingo said.

He said he would focus as well on personnel training "so we can upgrade everybody's skills," and oversee a zero-based budgeting process that would require a review of the entire organization to check for duplicative allocations and excessive spending.

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM) Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad will likewise prepare for a zero-based budgeting process, and said he wants measures to enforce more transparency, accountability and efficiency.

Abad said he also planned to empower the DBM's information office in order to help the public understand the budget process.

"We will set up a mechanism that will encourage civil society, the academe and business to participate in the budget process," he said.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE Commissioner Kim Henares will work on improving tax collection efficiency to allow the Aquino administration to keep to its promise of not going for a percentage of the gross domestic product—fell year-on-year to 12.8 percent in 2009 from 14.3 percent in 2008, which was the highest in the past decade.

The previous fiscal team in Malacañang set a target of raising the tax effort to 15.0 percent in 2016.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima will "focus on the process of providing true and complete justice for all."

In his inaugural speech, Mr. Aquino was clear: "To those who talk about reconciliation, if they mean that they would like us to simply forget about the wrongs that they have committed in the past, we have this to say: There can be no reconciliation without justice.

"Where our allies refuses to go unpunished, we give consent to their returning over and over again."

Earlier, Mr. Aquino told the business that the justice portfolio was "very crucial" in his fight against corruption, and that the justice secretary would serve as his "attack dog in pushing corruption cases" against the Arroyos and their allies, as well as crime syndicates, drug lords and smugglers.

"[The justice secretary] will be the face of the prosecution," he said.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE Secretary Voltaire Gazmin will alert all agencies linked to the National Disaster Coordinating Council to prepare for the typhoons that would hit the country.

Gazmin said he would also give his attention to modernizing the Armed Forces.

He said solving the woes in disaster response hinged on the modernization of the AFP, which would provide the 120,000-strong military force the appropriate weapons and equipment.

Seal pairing "the right person in the right job" is a first must do in making the AFP modernization program work, Gazmin said.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS (DPWH) Secretary Rogelio Singson will make flood control projects a priority in view of climate change, according to the recommendation of his predecessor Vivian Dominguez.

Prof. Dominguez assistant, he and Singson had "met twice already regarding the DPWH transition," he described as "seamless."

Singson said he had also recommended to Singson the allocation of more funds for capital equipment and construction of much-needed tunnels in Baguio City and other parts of the Cordilleras. *Reports from Jimmy Tamayo, Dominguez, Philip C. Tubeza, Rina P. Hechanova, Amy R. Rivera, Jocelyn R. Uy, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Jerry E. Esplanada and AFP*

SAT HERE'S LEGACY A torn Philippine flag flutters in the breeze in Plaza Lawang on Thursday. EDWIN BACASMAS

Boo-boo or not: Palace reissues 'firing' circular

From page A1

among the nonsecurity appointees should stay and who should go.

Reporters were advised of a press briefing by presidential spokesperson Ruben Lacierda at 10:30 a.m. yesterday to clarify Memorandum Circular No. 1 but he did not show up.

They were rescued, however, when two hours later, Lacierda appeared before the 4PM network speaking about the circular.

Reporters confronted him when he went to the press room and he apologized.

"I committed to speak on 4PM before and it's a sin, mortal sin, not to break it to the Malacañang Press Corps. I'm frustrated my bosses are once again, let me apologize to the Malacañang Press Corps," Lacierda said at his 2 p.m. briefing.

Lacierda initially refused to say Memorandum Circular No. 1 had been taken back and at the same time refused to consider what had happened as a "blooper" on the first full working day of the Aquino administration.

Instead, Lacierda insisted what happened was just a "fine-tuning of the language of the order."

Reissued circular

The following is what the reissued Memorandum Circular No. 1, which was signed by Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, is now saying:

"All presidential appointees with permanent status and/or those occupying positions created in excess of the authorized staffing pattern in all departments, offices, agencies and bureaus in the executive branch, are deemed separated from the service as of noontime of June 30.

"All nonexempt executive service officials (non-Cesos) occupying career executive service (Ces) positions in all agencies of the executive branch shall remain in office and continue to perform their duties and discharge their responsibilities until July 31, or until their resignations have been accepted and/or until their respective replacements have been appointed or designated, whichever comes first.

"Terminated and/or ceased employees whose contracts expire on June 30 shall continue their services up to July 31, unless otherwise earlier terminated or renewed by their heads of the hiring agencies in accordance with their specific needs and requirements and subject to part-time administrative and auditing rules and regulations.

TOUCH JOB Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda explains why the Palace took back Memorandum Circular No. 1 and later reissued it during a press briefing at the New Executive Building in Malacañang. EDWIN BACASMAS

This aren't a 'faux pas'

"Services rendered by all non-Ceso occupying Ces positions, those taking over from resigned officials shall be compensated in accordance with the existing civil service, budgeting accounting and auditing rules and regulations. Those officials and personnel are directed to effect an orderly and complete turnover of records, documents, books, equipment and properties of their respective offices to their successors, after the latter shall have been appointed or designated."

Before Lacierda tackled the memorandum order at his news briefing yesterday, he spokesperson to Palace reporters for his "faux pas" when he spoke to ABS-CBN about the order while they were waiting for his scheduled press conference.

But he had a hard time explaining the reissued order.

Lacierda said the revisions were made because there was a need to "improve the language" of the order.

"There was inconsistency as to the status of a number of nonexempt personnel so that had to be clarified. Because you see in the bureaucracy, you've got a lot of people who have not complied with their lack in eligibility requirements—those are not presidential appointees, most of them are not political appointees, so we needed to clarify where they were situated, what would be the consequence of the memorandum circular," he said.

Lacierda said the Palace had received a "lot" of text messages "raising concerns on their status."

"That's why we need to fine-tune the language on this to make sure that people who are really required to be relieved from service will be relieved and those who will not be to allow the government to go on," he said.

Still MC Order No. 1

There was a need to make assurances due to conflicting issues, officials said, as the order—which mandates all the employees to file courtesy resignations—is considered the first major directive of the Aquino administration.

So far the protected government officials and personnel had not left their posts, he said.

Lacierda said "no bloopers" happened from the result of the order.

Midway during the press briefing, Lacierda was handed the new order but he refused to open it as an amended circular, but jokingly "MC Order No. 1."

He acknowledged then that the one-page order stated the other day had been "misbehaved apparently" now that a new two-page order had been issued.

Asked whether two-orders can be signed with the same number, Lacierda said: "Legally, the subject matter is different. Therefore, it was issued by the same secretary so the subsequent statement that was issued prevails."

Asked what he thought of his new job as presidential spokesperson, Lacierda said: "Very exciting. My learning curve has just gone up dramatically."

NEW BALLGAME FOR JAMES

'I'll fight for Kris, family'

By Manuel R. Carullo

THIS IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT BALLgame that James Yap will try to win. It's not his hefty size in the Philippine Basketball Association, but his fatherhood and family.

Finally breaking his silence almost a week after his wife, Kris Aquino, made a startling announcement to the end of their marriage on nationwide television, the superstar cager-singer yesterday announced that he will fight until do whatever it takes to save their marriage.

"I believe in the importance of having an intact family," Yap said in a statement, written in Filipino, released to members of the sports media. "That's why I will fight to keep my family with Kris intact, whatever happens.

"I know that every family encounters trials like these," he continued. "Kris and I have made it through such tests before and I don't think that this would be the right time for us to call it quits."

Married to basketball scion Imee Aquino—younger sister of newly installed President Aquino—for the last six years, Yap has a son by the actress, Bimby James, and the statement that Yap's camp released certainly emphasized that he doesn't want to lose the role of playing father to his son.

"Baby James, I am doing this because of my love for our family," Yap wrote. "I want to keep our family united."

By this, Yap could have meant having to leave Dade One Reese condominium home in Makati earlier in the week so that his and Bailey James could continue home.

According to highly-placed sources who asked not to be identified, the eager himself packed his things and moved into a fast-rented condo because Aquino didn't want to come home while he was there.

The same source said that there was no third party involved in the breakup, claiming that both James and Kris could have just been "stressed out," although he said that both have been told to each other for the last two to three weeks.

Yap also sounded off an appeal to Aquino, whose announcement came months after she supposedly scanned the house of an alleged girlfriend of James in Valle Verde in Pasig.

"Kris, we have gone through a lot of

JAMES YAP

KRIS AQUINO and son Baby James

more serious problems than this one," Yap said. "I have kept quiet all these time out of respect for our family. I love you and my son and Josh Aquino's son by Philip Salvador) whom I have considered as my own.

"Another thing, I also promised Mom Cory (the late Former President Corazon Aquino) that I will always take care of our family," Yap said. "Kris and I also swore to Mom Cory that we will never separate."

Yap also said that he got the blessing of newly elected President Aquino that he would miss his inauguration last Thursday, day through text. He said that the President said that he understood his situation fully well.

"I am hopeful that the right door will

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Woman is chief of airport

By Jerome Aning

THE MANILA INTERnational Airport Authority (MIAA) welcomed Mary Soledad Lim as its first female chief yesterday following President Aquino's order to all political appointees to vacate their posts.

General Manager Alfonso Cusi appointed Lim as the assistant general manager for finance and administration.

"There is no room for interpretation. The director of President Aquino is very clear to me. I am a non-Career Executive Service Officer (non-CESO) and an appointee of the former President. I therefore should relinquish my post to Ms Castillo being the highest ranking official in MIAA," Cusi explained in a statement sent to reporters.

"Ms Castillo can very well handle the job. She's been with MIAA for 20 years. There's no question about her capability," Mariling Enriquez added.

The new airport chief is a certified public accountant. She earned her Cum eligibility on March 30, 1995.

Prior to joining the MIAA, she worked for the Commission on Audit and reached the rank of Auditor I.

INQUIRER

OPINION

Aquino's alter egos

EDITORIAL

A "TEAM OF RIVALS" IT IS NOT, IN THE SENSE used to describe US President Abraham Lincoln's Cabinet. Until Vice President Jejomar Binay and former Sen. Mar Roxas join President Aquino's official family, or former Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro changes his mind, there will be no politicians of a stature rivaling that of the President in his Cabinet. This circumstance, surely, wasn't planned, but it may just be what the first year of the second Aquino administration needs; there is no doubt that the starting agenda of the new administration is fully and completely that of the new President.

We caught a good look at that agenda in President Aquino's inaugural Address. The speech itself was marked by a lack of soaring rhetoric. In many places, it was workmanlike, a quality which we understand reflects his personality. And yet it was more than enough to inspire the half-a-million people who took part in the inauguration and millions more watching on television. It promised the change that the Filipino electorate overwhelmingly voted for. It made the promise mostly in Filipino, and it used words and images that the public could readily relate to.

The question is: Can the President's men and women carry out this agenda for change?

We have already noted the inspired choice of Leila de Lima, the former human rights commission chief, as justice secretary. Here is one independent minded public official who will bring both zeal to the administration of justice and a scrupulous fair-mindedness. We recognize the high hopes that the return of Teresita Deles to the position of presidential peace adviser has stirred in the so-called peace community. We share in the sense of relief that the appointment of Cayetano Paderanga to his old post of socio-economic planning secretary, after high-profile designations of a politician and a non-economist in a sensitive if under-appreciated office, has generated.

We read the inclusion of other old hands in the Cabinet as a stabilizing presence, especially in President Aquino's first year. But it seems to us that the likes of Jose de Jesus (transportation and communication) and Voltaire Gazmin (defense) are an index of the new President's "comfort zone"—that is, he wants to work with those he knows from personal experience to be tried and tested. But as his leadership experience deepens, and especially as he faces new problems or old ones in new guises, we think it would be fair to say that the public fully expects him to appoint leaders from the younger generations.

Younger generations are in fact represented in the Cabinet, from his deservedly less-prolific executive secretary, Paquito Ochoa Jr.; to the chief of the Presidential Management Staff, Julia Abad, who worked closely with Mr. Aquino in his three years at the Senate as chief of staff; to Edwin Lacierda, the presidential spokesman who seems to faithfully mirror the President's thinking. But Mr. Aquino's undisputed standout allows him, the youngest President since Ferdinand Marcos' first election, to appoint many more young leaders to his Cabinet. (We note that the first news conference of the new administration carried an intriguing exchange about the administration's presence on online social media networks.)

There are other leaders left in Aquino's own generation that he can tap to turn his change agenda into reality. We regret, for instance, that the Cabinet does not yet include former Wage Minister Jesus Robredo as interior and local government secretary. We trust that he remains on the short list, as his appointment will place a proven reformist in charge of one of the most powerful government bureaucracies, one not exactly known for progressive policies or good governance.

Other appointments are controversial; perhaps the most emblematic is the choice of former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. as head of the still-to-be-fleshed-out Truth Commission, because it raises questions about the dividing line between the political and the partisan. We hope the controversy won't obscure the work that the commission will do. In the exact same way that the searching orders to each department secretary was to do an inventory, the commission's mission can be understood as an audition, a necessary sorting out of the allegations and the evidence against the previous dispensation. To adopt a more agreeable manner: You can't change what you can't measure.

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Presidential inaugural or pop concert?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PEOPLE WATCHING THE INAUGURAL CEREmonies for President Aquino at the Luneta the other day I wondered whether what I was witnessing was a presidential inaugural or a pop concert. There were too many members by pop singers. This detracted from the solemnity of the inauguration of a chief of state. They should have reserved all the singers for the concert at the secret party at the Quezon Memorial Circle in the evening and left the inauguration ceremonies as soon as the presidential oath-taking, which is serious business.

After hearing P-Noy sing at the Quezon City party, I proved that he became a better President than what he is as a singer. Gary Valenciano, Jaya Alcazaid and all the rest were not best way competition from him.

P-Noy's inaugural speech, however, was what the people had been waiting for. Those who committed crimes against the people will be punished, corruption will be eliminated, there will be judicial reforms to make the reliefs of justice will faster; no reconciliation without justice, red tape will be minimized, there will be emergency employment for the jobless, better traffic management, etc. And "no more smog, no more flies, no more lice, no more bites, it is time for us to smash corruption once and for all," Vice said. Whew!

On reconciliation, he said, "To those who talk about reconciliation, if they mean they would like us to simply forget about the wrongs that they committed in the past, we have this answer: There can be no reconciliation without justice. Where we allow crimes to go unpunished, we give consent to their being committed again and again."

The President mentioned the promises of his administration as relocation, health, housing, quality infrastructure, food security, flood control, jobs and improvement of the police and military.

He said he would review the anti-poverty employment programs initiated by his mother, President Cory, to provide jobs in local communities. This, for the very man who was one of the priorities of President Gloria Macapagal. (Maybe unless the term as he assumed the presidency, Macapagal created the Emergency Employment Administration (EEA) that gave material jobs to the unemployed, digging ditches and building roads, is said. Instead, massive removal of mechanical equipment to construction projects in many parts.

The farmers, Aquino directed the Department of Agriculture to make it possible for them to sell their products directly to the consumers to eliminate the interference of middlemen who take the farm's share of the profits, at the expense of the farmers.

As for the outright opposition, their days are numbered. Aquino realized that he would review their designations granted through "midnight deals." "Let that be a warning to those who intend to—injustice also avoided when they have become the norm for too long," he said.

* * *

Rep. Mariss Pacquiao is just starting his political career but already he is a target. Rivera elevated representative of Sarangani as an endorser of Nacionalista Party standard-bearer Manny Villar. But as soon as he was proclaimed, he joined the Liberal Party of the man who defeated his candidate, Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao.

He first ran for representative of South Cotabato and when he was defeated, he moved to Sarangani and ran again for congressman—and won this time. He is no different from the veteran actors who move from one party to another every now in the polls (examples: Edu Manzano, Bong Revilla, etc.).

Manny Mahumocad Ali's advice to "Bong" like a honorific used among tikas a boy" does not mean that you should be a political hoodlum. They are two different things.

An Inaugural Address in Filipino

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

IT WASN'T JUST THE WORDS BUT THE LAnguage in which they were uttered that made a difference—and perhaps it is because we fit ignore generally from English to the classroom and Filipino at home. We think formal thoughts in English, but speak our most intimate feelings of our secret tongue. Perhaps we it was such a contrast to the super hi-tech inauguration of Barack Obama, with its cool, detached, bare tone to associate formal speechifying with hot frustration and disappointment.

Also, the Inaugural Address functioned similarly with the banter and bravado it gave rise to in the days, weeks and months to come. It is history and drama on each newspaper. It spoke of hits and misses: "Hindi ko makuha na mo-ra ng mga sa panahon ng ... " It spoke of the typical Filipino misgivings, to be "binatangal na anak, mahirap na kapit, at mahirap kumapit." It spoke of the perennials: "pamahalaang bahay at ibig," "ang pamumuhunang mandol at mga ibang ng manlilipad," "ang pakikisama at ... malubhamalo ng mga nang pinagkatiwalaan at pinagkakautangan," and "pagkakaisa sa hangad."

The climate of course sans the reference to disaster/relief/rescue, the most maddening example of government's big shots pushing their weight around: "napabahaybahay ito nang wang ang kalsada." Thus the pledge: "Walang wang wang, walang counter flow, walang trip." On Bachelorette, when the news came on, the President Aquino's sisters stopped at every traffic light on the way to his mob-taking it to this entertainment was "pinilit ng mga tao na ito ay ... Pinilit nila na ito ay ... " Pinilit nila na ito ay ... Pinilit nila na ito ay ... " Pinilit nila na ito ay ... " Pinilit nila na ito ay ... "

Aquino returns power to the sovereign people

PRESIDENT BENIGNO AQUINO III RETURNED power to the sovereign people upon his induction into office on Wednesday.

"You are the boss, so I cannot ignore your orders," he said in his Inaugural Address. "We are here to serve and not to lord over you. The mandate given to us was one of change."

In a 33-minute speech that made a virtue of brevity, stripped of soaring rhetoric, Aquino established the relationship between government and the people. "I accept your marching orders to transform government: that it will belong to—not the servile few—but the vibrant spirit of the people and the nation," he said. "This transition is the social contract that we agreed upon. It is the promise I made during the campaign, which you accepted on election day."

In the language of political economics, the redefinition amounts to an attack on the arrogance of power even in democratic societies. It translates into a government ruling by listening to the voice of the ruled, rather than one giving orders from the top.

The speech had few themes and was motivated by a slew of detailed priorities that should go into the making of the nation-address.

Going back to one of his main election campaign pledges, he served notice that he was serious in implementing it. "If no one is corrupt, no one will be poor," he repeated. "That is no more than justice for poverty is a the defining principle that our nation as the Republic of the Philippines was born."To our impoverished countrymen, starting today, your government will be your champion."

While his theme painted with populist overtones, he avoided the rich-versus-poor rhetoric favored by Left-wing demagogues. Rather he preferred identifying the people as the greater victims of the past, a theme that helped him deflect criticism that as a scion of a landed wealthy family, which some (Sarimla Lozada in Tarlac, he is not credible as champion of the poor.

He made it incontestably clear that "[w]e have been, for too long, a nation of unfulfilled promises. We have wasted too much time, too much effort, too much money. Too many leaders who are rich, all, bestial and time public servants," he said, "I will end the examples. I will strive to be a good leader. I will not break the trust you have placed in me. I will ensure that this, too, will be the adversary of my Cabinet and those who will join our government."

The President had instant support with the common people as the tone of the speech and its thrusts received the most applause when he said he would put an end to the use of "wang wang," the sound of police sirens escorting officials and VIPs through congested traffic. The public also easily identified with Mr. Aquino when he said that the nation's "elitist suffering" was about to end, adding "I know and feel the problems of ordinary citizens."

Aquino drew applause when he said, "Have you ever been ignored by the very government you put in power? There, from you had to endure long waiting at the end of the street that begins even of those who live to display their position of power over you? I have, too. Have you experienced exasperation and anger at a government that, instead of serving you, needs to be endured by you? Be, have I."

Things will be different under his administration, he vowed. "No more pockets, no more extravagant spending. No more inviting back on promises made during the campaign. No more patronage politics, no more stealing. No more deceit, no more short cuts, no more traffic counter flow, no more bribes. It is time for us to work together one more."

Even before the President could spell out his concrete programs and other having laid down the fundamental philosophy of his government, the Cabinet started implementing some of his priorities. They started with the ban on the "wang wang." On the first day of his morning after his inauguration, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima reminded government officials that the use of sirens was limited only to the President, Vice President, Senate President and House Speaker.

Acting on orders of the President, Philippine Nacional Police Director General Jesus Versoza directed PNP units tasked with supervising the use of sirens and police escorts to tighten their rules. According to Versoza, there is a standing policy that, except for police cars and motorcycles being used as escorts, prohibits the use of sirens and blinkers in all PNP vehicles.

This measure has been seen to be revised and further tightened in the light of President Aquino's revolution to the abuse of sirens and flashing lights by police escorting VIPs to gain advantage over ordinary motorists. Some of the most notorious users of this privilege are senators, congressmen, governors and mayors. These users went to get through traffic quickly in order to their destinations on the pretext that they have urgent official business. So public business is so important than it should be an excuse to jumping the traffic one and screaming in the jams.

It's time to be made to follow the flow of traffic. They have to be on the road early to meet their appointments. The public will not suffer from the absence of the wang-wang, an obsolete public nuisance.

Vetting P-Noy's choices

P-NOY MAY HAVE WON POPULIST POINTS with his Inaugural Address, which was filled, brief and to all the right buttons regarding people's resentment of high-handed authority and arrogance.

Actually, I rather liked it, even if some rabid-ons were complained that it lacked the soaring eloquence of most speeches on such a momentous occasion. But great speeches are usually forgettable and loaded in hindsight. Are easy to write, and easier to deliver. They mean nothing if, some years down the line, the speaker has largely forgotten what they contained and really had no intention of bringing the words to life.

What I liked about P-Noy's speech was that it did not attempt ambitious grandeur than our daily tribulations. What Filipino, after all, encounters grandeur only on the silver screen? Instead, he—with what, they note, has to do—is to do with "wang-wang" escorts and total traffic gaps.

His vow can hold President Aquino to account and to deliver on the fundamentals of our collective failure of Cabinet members. Even as he declared the beginning of a "consultative" Aquino administration, he offered little by way of explanation for his choices, especially the grounds for why he appointed this individual to a particular post, and the matching or deviation.

We'll have many days to vet the President's choices, but for now, let's start with one appointee:

DOH consigned Cabinet appointment is that of Dr. Enrique Ona, formerly of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI), as health secretary.

Ona is a well-known transplant surgeon and, depending on whom you talk to, a credited—or blamed—for setting up the system of transplanting donor organs, most of them kidneys, from living donors. Ona's appointment has been to some columnists I had written previously about the concerns raised by members of the health community about the increasing "commercialization" of organ donations. Ona had met with me to explain his position, and I believe that medical doctors who are an offshoot of the increasing demand for donor organs and the lack of donor-organ from the deceased.

The World Health Organization and other international bodies have declared that the use of organs for transplantation should ideally be sourced from deceased donors, those who have been declared as "brain dead." If a deceased donor is not available, the next option should be the donation of an organ from a living donor who is either biologically related to the recipient or "emotionally related," that is, has some sort of personal relationship, be it by marriage, friendship or as a member of the clergy.

Most bodies have frowned upon monetized transaction hailed almost exclusively to money, with kidneys and other organs "donated" in exchange for remuneration of cash, often made to appear legitimate by the health expenditures of donating an organ, and lack of follow-up care and treatment.

* * *

THE PHILIPPINES has earned the title of a "hot spot" of the organ trade mainly because of the easy availability of organs from living non-related donors.

In our conversation, Ona revealed that so much attention has focused on the NKTI mainly because it was one of the first centers to establish expertise in transplant procedures. But the reality is, he said, many other hospitals and medical centers around the country have similar transplantations, with hardly any supervision.

As the new health secretary, Ona is expected to exercise supervision over both public and private hospitals, and not just those engaged in transplantation. But it stays to be asked whether he can honestly distance himself from his former colleagues at the NKTI or his viewpoints on the practice in lieu of his current position.

In early test for Ona's resolve on this issue is whether he will fully implement AO2010-0012 on, which is a "National Program Policy Barring Organs from Deceased Donors," which former Health Secretary Esperanza Cabral signed recently. The order lays down guidelines on the creation of a roster list of potential organ recipients, and on the establishment of criteria that would rationalize the matching of donations from recently deceased persons.

Bill Diaz put the bill weight of his office behind the effort to promote organ donation from the deceased, and to prevent the practice from being influenced by factors like influence, connections, wealth or celebrity? Already, he must must be first not heard on.

* * *

SPEAKING of Cabinet, the certainly accomplished a lot in her very brief tenure as health secretary.

Aside from tangling with the Catholic Church with her avowed support her efforts to promote responsible family health, such as distributing condoms during Valentine's Day as part of the effort to curb the spread of HIV, she also took on the tobacco industry. Her "hard-to-supplement" rules, it's said, have modest accomplishments with regard to expanding the role of celebrities in promoting smoke-free activities.

Days after she signed an order requiring the use of "graphic health warnings" on cigarette packs, the tobacco industry immediately got a favorable ruling from a judge in Marikina that prevents the DOH from requiring the use of graphic photographs to warn smokers of the hazards of smoking. Ona called the ruling a smoke, give his health secretary the authority to take on Big Tobacco on this issue? Where does that stand on tobacco use as a health hazard?

Not having support her efforts to promote responsible reproductive health, the public has little to go on regarding Ona's stance on this crucial issue. Will he support the passage of a reproductive health bill in this Congress? What are his views on population management? Should the Catholic Church's influence in curbing teenage pregnancy, population management? Sadly, Ona is a cipher in this regard.

Mabini's advice

PIPI, ARE SOME PEOPLE, IS JOSE RIZAL ON the one peso coin and Ninoy Aquino on the P500 bill? Since Rizal came last then Ninoy, does it make his sacrifice and heroism less too?

In the currencies of many countries, the most famous have to placed on the most circulated denominations. Thus, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas placed Rizal on the one-peso coin that also bag peso or be the basic unit of our currency. Inasmuch as he on the five

Enough of 'colonial' leadership

LETTERS

EVER WONDERED WHY THE PHILIPPINES is so unlucky as to have had not one great leader to at this time up to the present? This is because we have only have economic planning but also have a poverty of patriotism, idealism and manifest leadership. The n we only true to the top echelons of power, this is also true to the lower rungs of government.

The Filipinos is not the problem, for is as good as our brethren living. Let him work abroad, in a free World country like the United States, and lord it's well and succeed. Here in the Philippines, he would settle for a mediocre performance. There's no taste the leadership to our country's training inquisitive and dedication.

How could this have happened, the lack of quality leaders? Could our being a colony for a long time is the past have something to do with it? The foreign colonial masters who...despite their being explorers, were nevertheless rational and accepted. Such that the Filipinos who took over the reins of power, in their those, in turn "colonized" and replicated their way even people in our midst.

Personally, Filipinos are a very patient and God-centered people, otherwise we would have long gone the bloody way of Vietnam, Cambodia, Burma, Laos.

The colonizers' style of governance is ingrained in the Filipino subconscious that alienates the unique possibilities of nation by exclusivity or subservitude; we adopt the oppressive ways of the colonial masters whose yelling name was, "What are we in power for?"

Young leaders should break away from the "bad habits" of our colonial, feudal, exploitative past. We have long been in independent nation. They should strike up those "colonial shackles" and never can people as we came, not as some conquering savages from a foreign land, welcoming great wealth by exploiting their own people and country.

After all, true to happens in his own homeland, as long-watched own people. He may do a lot of traveling abroad, but the joy of the heart is always home. There happens when he came back to the country which he knew a world-renowned hero.

Should we possess or overcome such slavemanger in possession? If we come to realize into the twilight of colonialism and feudalism, we can't deny physical manifestations but also their hold on our subconscious, their the current colonists.

Otherwise, we will always be the "sick men of Asia."

—DANNY BERNARDO,
2 Coral, Altamesa E.
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO BID

This Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified, interested individuals/corporations to apply for eligibility and to bid for the contracts/project:

ITB No. 2010-0XX

DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget for the Contract	Non-Refundable Fee	Delivery Period
One (1) Procurement of 200 Pcs. Battery (12V/100Ah Power System) for Land Bank Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) Nationwide, Including Delivery, Installation and Related Value-Added Services	Php 0,000,000.00	Php 1,000.00	Within sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, with an aggregate contract amount equivalent to fifty percent (50%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC). The Supply, Delivery, Installation as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall start upon the bidders' receipt of the Notice to Proceed (NTP). The qualifications of the bidder will also be considered.

Bidding documents prepared in English, Filipino and Pertaining Bid Security, Performance Security, Post-Bidding Qualifications, Eligibility Check, Conditions of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract may be purchased by the interested bidder upon the payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents pursuant to the 2009 revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 2, 2010 to July 22, 2010
2. Pre-bid Conference	July 12, 2010, 2:00 PM Venue: Land Bank Plaza, 24th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
3. Opening of Bids	July 22, 2010, 2:00 PM
4. Bid Evaluation	July 22, 2010
5. Post-qualification	July 23 to 29, 2010
6. Notice of Award	August 1, 2010

Bid Documents and the nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php 1,000.00 may be purchased by the interested bidder upon payment of the applicable non-refundable amount to the LBP Cashier.

The LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bid(s), to waive any formality therein, or to accept the bid(s) as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Attention: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation - Resolution Regulation Unit (PDIC-RRU)
Unit 1201 Cityland 10 Tower 1, 6815 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Telephone Nos. 841-4129 to 30 loc. 2000 / Telefax No. 841-4128
Email Address: rru@pdic.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID
FOR THE PUBLIC BIDDING OF ASSETS OF CLOSED BANKS

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC), as Liquidator of the closed banks listed below, will conduct public bidding for the sale of assets of the said banks on the dates indicated:

Name of Bank	Location	Date of Bidding	Time
Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation	Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation Bldg., Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	August 19, 2010	10:00 A.M.
Urban Bank, Inc.	Urban Bank, Inc. Bldg., Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	August 19, 2010	2:00 P.M.

Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents from the PDIC Resolution Regulation Unit (RRU) at the above address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) per bank. Bidding documents may also be downloaded from the PDIC website (www.pdic.gov.ph) and submitted to the RRU not later than 5:00 P.M. of August 18, 2010.

The PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept the bid(s) as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE NCR Building, 900 Philippine St.,
Makati, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEP'S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
KIKUMI COSMETICS, INC. Unit 12-A Bel-Air Tower, Tordesillas cor. Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, San Miguel, Mkti., Philippine Textile, Pasig City	Masahide Araki Japanese	Research and Development Specialist (Philippines)
BLUEBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL (PHILS.), INC. Unit 1201 Tera Tower, Upper McKinley Hill, Taguig City, Philippines	Daniel Martin Woodbridge British	Account Executive
M.M.S. TRADING CORP. 2nd Floor, Dona Trinidad Complex, Dona Trinidad St., Bonanza, Baguio City	Chongyu Wen Chinese	Operations Manager
ACCENTURE, INC. 9/F Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Jeevanandam Ramakrishnan Malaysian	Team Lead
GEOL PHILIPPINES CORPORATION CLP Tower, Roxas Avenue, Extension, Davao City	Sohil Saurabh Indian	Financial Planning and Analysis (FP&A) Director
MET LIFE HOMES CORP. Unit 202, The Crimson Square Bldg., 31 Bonifacio St., Nuevo, Bulacan Capitol, Pasig City	Sreejithpur Ravi Iranian	C.T. Manager
KYUKO KAMEN CORP. L&R-A, Alabel St., Mandaluyong, Manila	Hiroyuki Sasaki Japanese	Marketing Manager
KYUKO KAMEN HOUSE L&R-A, Alabel St., Mandaluyong, Manila	Nobuhiko Takamoto Japanese	Asst. Finance Manager
SHUN FUNG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 12 Panorama Avenue, BF Homes, Paranaque City	Shun Sun Lee (alias of Puyat) Korean	Manager
KUMIKO CDN LLP Center Ltd., Tower D, PIC Building, Roxas Blvd.	Victor John Emmanuel Hugo Delfino French	Philippine Representative Director
KUMIKO CDN LLP Center Ltd., Tower D, PIC Building, Roxas Blvd.	Patrick Thierry Emmanuel Jean French	Assistant Vice President, Financial Control
KUMIKO CDN LLP Center Ltd., Tower D, PIC Building, Roxas Blvd.	Mustapha Kissou French	Analyst - Senior Executive Control
SOLA GLOBAL PHILS. INC. 7/F Cambridge Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Calina Rumbo British	Marketing Coordinator
PLDT PHONE DIRECTORY COMPANY Ramon Cojuangco Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City	Hiroshi Ikehara Japanese	Senior Advisor
R & D CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT AND TRADING, INC. Filinvest Corporate Center Bldg., 3rd Flr. Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Hikaru Fuji (alias of Ken) Filipino	Logistic Manager
PTT PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 10/F ABS Bldg., Makati City	Sukhiya Satyadhn Thai	Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer
JGC PHILIPPINES, INC. 27th Flr., The Podium Business Park, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong, Philippines	Hiroki Yamamoto Japanese	Supply Chain Project Manager
JGC PHILIPPINES, INC. 27th Flr., The Podium Business Park, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong, Philippines	Hayase Seiji Japanese	Project Manager - Civil Engineer

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
JGC PHILIPPINES, INC. 27th Flr., The Podium Business Park, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong, Philippines	Yuki Kuroda Japanese	Inspection Work Planner - Civil Engineer
JGC PHILIPPINES, INC. 27th Flr., The Podium Business Park, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong, Philippines	Hiroshi Kondo Japanese	Inspector, HSE Project - Safety Engineer
JGC PHILIPPINES, INC. 27th Flr., The Podium Business Park, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong, Philippines	Shigeki Yoshida Japanese	Inspector, HSE Project - Safety Engineer
JGC PHILIPPINES, INC. 27th Flr., The Podium Business Park, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong, Philippines	Shimabukuro Satoshi Japanese	Inspector, HSE Project - Piping Engineer
TMT EXPRESS (MPAULTRUCTURE LIMITED – BRANCH OFFICE Unit 01-01, Centre, 17 Cybay St., Taguig City, Philippines	Jingfeng Liang Chinese	Technical Support Engineer
ELITE ENGINEERING #14 Bolinao St., Bgy. Ibaba, San Juan City	Shuta Ishibashi Japanese	Marketing Manager
GEORGEPHONE HOTLINE CORPORATION 4/F PCI Bldg., Ayala Ave., cor. Paseo de Roxas St., Makati City, Philippines	Kuang Yuan Hsiung Taiwan	Vice President
ALPHA FIRST AID PHILS., INC. 2302 Alpha Centre, #3 Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Digoo Hiroyasu Indonesian	Translator
JARDINE ENERGY CONTROL COMPANY, INC. 10/F Jardine House, 29 Gil Puyat, Makati City, Philippines	Ho Kam Fuchia Flora British	Account Officer
JARDINE ENERGY CONTROL COMPANY, INC. 10/F Jardine House, 29 Gil Puyat, Makati City, Philippines	Ali Hsu Lee Chinese	Project Promotional Engineer
JBG GLOBAL SERVICES AND OPERATIONS (MANILA), INC. 11/F Liberty Star Bldg., #108 Tindalo St., Makati City	Timothy James Carr Australian	Senior Asset Manager Senior Manager I
SMART TRADING, INC. G/F Philippine Air Terminal Bldg., Nichols, Pasay City	Seung Hun Kim Korean	Asst. Supervisor
DC RESERVATIONS (PHILIPPINES), INC. 7th Flr. Cityland 10 Tower 2, 6815 Ayala Ave., cor. HV Dela Costa, Makati City	Ryunosin Miyagi Chinese	Front Desk Executive
NATIONAL GRID CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES Quezon Avenue, Quezon City	Zhongming Liu Chinese	Assistant Chief Technical Officer Operations & Maintenance
HYUNDAI HAMMER HOUSE L&R-A, Alabel St., Mandaluyong, Manila	Hirohito Hamashima Japanese	Director Manager

If you have any information in the above-mentioned application please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. ADRIANO
Regional Director

UP prof taught GMA wrong lessons

THE 3 A REACTION TO THE news article titled "GMA gets high marks from her former UP professor," Dec. 2010, p. 2) I can just do something why Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo other teachers are not getting her this same grades. Prof. Leonardo Lanado, Ms Arroyo's former teacher in the University of the Philippines School of Economics, has only distributed his former student but also wrote a book praising with presidential spokesperson on economic affairs Cielo Olivas. The book supposedly "objectively" shows off the turnaround in the country's economy.

But a lot of Filipino people will definitely disagree with its authors, especially the 90 percent of the ignorant who are poor and are getting poorer every day. Professor Lanado's defense of GMA is not only hard to swallow, it is based on figures and theories that have only caused our country more suffering. Eventually, he has justified the country's economic because IMFs are applied what he taught her this in UP, supposedly a school for the masses.

I am also taught that our economics taught us differently. I do not remember Jr. and other classmates of his mates in mind. Coming from UP, we should stand by our name and rebuke he "sige-lokohin ng Bayan" not "lokohin ng Sige Mayor."

—CARLAIA,
carl_alai@yahoo.com

Stop slide to perdition, Noynoy urged

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. RENATO CONG for his correct that it won't be an exaggeration to say that we are now right nation in India. Our country has so much a can to be ashamed with corruption—even our prime personages, as attested to by Amabelle Abaya ("Corruption is the opposite of patriotism," Inquirer, 6/17/10).

Mr. Aquino has a difficult task ahead. It pains me so much that although we've been a predominantly Christian nation for more than two centuries, our Christianity is, as we say here, still only skin deep. Pope Benedict XVI once described our nation as "immature in faith." We still have a long way to go.

Let us help President Noynoy Aquino will soon to reverse our slide to perdition soon enough.

I may write to MR. CONG to propose a National Mea Culpa Day because we all really have been guilty of corruption by omission and commission, instead of self-pitying and applying the saying "Pag nasa taguilid, sa pusalin man ay kabayo," which is music to government officials, we all must believe in and apply the saying "Pag nasa taguilid, sumakay ng kabayo," so that we'll think twice before we do something that will hurt our country and our country.

—RENATO C. MENDOZA,
Lot 22, Block 6, Phase 2,
Highlands Prime Subd.,
Bo Tuktuk, Real 1900

Favorite paper without Justice Cruz

I READ THE INQUIRER BECAUSE like a good teacher to her students, it has become a constant source of learning, not just to me but to most of its readers and subscribers. Almost every morning, I eat through each and every page. The "piece de resistance" is the Opinion section.

For me, Jovito Laguio is Cruz, the illustrious father of a lawyer son whom I came to finally call Atty. Cruz, who was among the chosen few's "high-calibre columnists." His incisive commentaries always made me "yearning piss-full."

With the untimely retirement of Justice Cruz from column writing duporium, 6/23/10), Senior Inquirers reading will never be the same again. On the other hand, while I would have retained Inquirer's constant viewing his widely read column, I, like his throng of admirers, must defer to the greater interest of his health and well-being. We wish Justice Cruz continued good health and more smiling divine goodness.

—TEODORO ROMULO D.
Iuble ing Freeport Area,
tgmuller@yahoo.com

GSIS pensioner seeks justice

I AM 83 YEARS OLD. GSIS RETIREE who had served for 22 years, Nena C. Bacani of Cebu City, has been deprived of lifetime pension due her since she retired in 1988, 20 years ago, because of an error made by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) in applying what is called the section of Republic Act 1161 (the retiring members with 20 years of service.

Since 2008, Bacani's case remained pending before the offices of outgoing Secretary Rogelio Singson and GSIS president Winston Garcia. The error has not been upheld despite the fact that all the reasons given by the GSIS field officers in favor Bacani's claim have been disproved by the findings of DBM' individuals staff.

He sees appeal to President Benigno Aquino to correct the injustice in one of the first acts of his administration. More than young men and dedicated to public service, Bacani is among the oldest who is very high hopes for his immediate beneficiaries.

May God grant President Aquino the wisdom and the courage to serve the people fairly, beginning with the case of Nena C. Bacani.

—ARMANDO CAMERO,
(authorized representative of Nena C. Bacani),
camerohouse1@yahoo.com

Free Mindanao of kidnappers, bandits

THE RESPONSIBLE OF KIDNAPpings in Mindanao indicates that the kidnappers, who could be the MNLF or other criminal groups, are again out to raise funds for their illegal activities.

The kidnapping of Malaysian workers early this year and of Charles Smith, and lately of the son of a Canadian official, should be a wake-up call. The local authorities in the place should double their efforts to stop the growing menace. The people, for their part, should also help authorities by giving the necessary informations about the suspects. This would surely do their community good. They must show their eye arms and go against these bandits.

Places in Japan and the Visayas have become free of insurgency, it is high time for Mindanao to be free of bandits so that the people there can live in peace the way they should in this country. The kind of insurgency we like, which is not possible with these bandits around, harassing and harassing them.

—ERNESTO D. ITE,
rosyest7@yahoo.com

Insulate foreign service from politics

WE URGE PRESIDENT ELECT Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III to refrain from political appointments to fill up Philippine posts abroad. By doing this, he would help keep the Philippine foreign service from becoming politicized.

At present, there are about 20 serving ambassadors appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo. They retire are coterminous with hers.

Though some of them are career diplomats, they are already past retirements and were not recommended by his Aseros for political patronage. They were only appointed by the incoming Aquino administration. Younger career diplomats should be given the chance to serve overseas for longer.

Career diplomats are career because they polish experiences as the years are earned and, therefore, have the necessary special knowledge and diplomatic skills. They are better equipped to advance the interests and promote the well-being of Filipinos abroad, more especially overseas Filipino workers.

Especially in foreign posts where there is a large concentration of OFWs and numerous cases of OFW abuses, maltreatment, and labor malpractices, the top Philippine officials must be career diplomats so that he/she would see his/her expertise in serving overseas Filipinos.

If an ambassador has been appointed on the basis of his performance, experience and skills and knowledge, and non-political affiliation, he would not be beholden to the appointing authority, and thus he can serve well his Filipino countrymen abroad, including OFWs.

—ANGELES LEONARDO BONIFACIO,
Rigonan Middle East regional coordinator,
migrante@gmail.com

Meralco service at work.

It takes regular maintenance and constant upgrading of our power distribution facilities to assure the delivery of reliable electricity. In this regard, some power interruptions in the following areas are unavoidable.

Please be assured that we are working as efficiently and as quickly as to ensure causing the least inconvenience.

MONDAY, JULY 5, 2010

REAL PRIMOSE (ANTIPOLO CITY)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 1:00PM – THE BRIDGE OF CIRCUIT NEW TONDO-MAY ANI PORTION OF CIRCUIT NEW TONDO-UGONG

Portion of Sitio Lawaan-I Access Road from Sitio Agaw to and including Sitio Cawayan, Sitio Dumaslanan, Pugad, Rosemanguan, Kalikid, Dalandanan, Sitio Kayabasan, Tinang, Mamanginan and Tagpos in Brgy. San Jose, Antipolo City.

REASON: Various maintenance work along Sitio Lawaan Access Road in Sitio Agaw, Antipolo City, Rizal Province.

TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2010

MANILA CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 5:00AM (MON., 07/05/10) AND THEN BETWEEN 1:00AM AND 5:00AM (TUE., 07/06/10) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MANPOLAN #1552

Portion of Manila Highway from Tabon St. to including Rodriguez Ave. including Agapito Street, A. Arnaiz Avenue (New Panaderos) to Brgy. Bangkal.

Portion of Rodriguez Ave. from Manila Highway to Inter-Cabletech St. including Bangkal St., Interboard St., Intra-Mandaluyong Link Road, Intra-Commercial to Brgy. Hulo Pob.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (MON., 07/05/10) AND 5:00AM (TUE., 07/06/10) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT SAMPALOC #1552

Portion of Manila Highway from R. Papa Extension to Intra-St. including J.J.A. and Bustamante (Mili Site), Dapco Transformer, Zone Across Lane, Village, Sto. Tomas Sub, Tapia Sub, Tapia Public Market No. 1, Mendoza Lane and Mendoza Lodge to Brgy. Bangkal.

REASON: Relocation of poles affected by DPWH road widening project along Manila Highway in Brgy. Bangkal, Pasig City.

TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2010

MANILA AND QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 1:00PM AND 4:00PM – THE BRIDGE OF CIRCUITS EDA (MEGA CIR-CUIT, EVY, GEP, EVY AND KAMIAS) AND TYM

Portion of Timog Ave. and Kamias St. from Sto. Nino St. to Kamias St. including Kamias Ave. and Kamias St. from Sto. Nino St. to Kamias St.

Portion of Timog Ave. from Kamias St. to including Quezon Ave. including Quezon Ave. from Timog Ave. to Sto. Nino St. including Megaloan MPH, Ist Pic-U-Pack, Jollibee, Sun Domestic, Sto. Nino St., Sandoval, Lechugas and Lapadario Compound, Mercury Drug.

Portion of Kamias Ave. from Kamias St. to including Kamias Ave. including Kamias Ave. from Kamias St. to including Kamias MPH, 1st Pic-U-Pack, Jollibee, Sun Domestic, Sto. Nino St., Sandoval, Lechugas and Lapadario Compound, Mercury Drug.

Portion of Kamias and N. Domingo Sts. from Kamias St. to including N. Domingo St. including Kamias St. to Kamias St.

Across the NATION

Bong Pineda wife: What 'jueteng'?

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—IT WAS ONE INAUGURAL speech that could be remembered not for what programs or policies it listed, but for what it raised.

Pampanga Gov Lilia Pineda, wife of suspected "jueteng" financier Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, made no mention of any projects against the illegal numbers game jueteng in her first speech as the province's chief executive.

Pineda, in an interview on Thursday, said police had stopped jueteng in Pampanga, which was once dubbed as the "Vatican of Jueteng," and she would prevent its return by way of livelihood projects.

She cited health, education and economic development as priority programs of her administration in a speech she delivered after she and Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo led at least 500 local officials in a mass oath-taking at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center here on Wednesday.

GMA ally

Pineda, a close friend and staunch ally of Arroyo, rallied local officials to support the administration of President Aquino who, during the Pampanga leg of his campaign, vowed to stop jueteng.

She said her administration stands on the "safety and trust of the Kapampangan." She also ordered police to restore peace and order so that was essential for economic development.

"We will stop [jueteng] if it resumes. And the best way to stop it is if we in government can give alternative sources of income to her followers. Arresting them is not enough," Pineda said.

Stopping jueteng through jobs was a position she made during the election campaign in 2007 and 2010.

Among the farmer seen to have donated her first gubernatorial bid in 2007 was jueteng financier Bong Pineda, who investigated by Congress in 1988, 2000 and 2005.

Pineda said the absence of her husband in the oath-taking on Wednesday meant that he would have no hand in her work as governor.

Small-town lottery

A top police official in the province said jueteng operations had stopped in Pampanga. "There's no more jueteng since STL (small town lottery) was started in September 2007," Senior Supt. Heinrich Belmonte, Pampanga police director, said in a text message, referring to the operations of Sun Cove Corp.

The franchise from congress and accepted by Pampanga Governor Lilia Pineda.

Belmonte said the absence of jueteng operations in the province was the result of the cooperation of the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the PCSO. He said STL was the government's antidote against jueteng. STL licensee holders were required to absorb jueteng employees like cabo (area manager) and sobradores (collectors).

Bong Pineda, in previous interviews, had denied financing jueteng.

His name does not appear in Sun Cove's documents as owner or incorporator.

Former Gov. Eddie Panlilio and Bishop Pablo David had said STL was a "legal cover" to jueteng.

Earlier, Panlilio, a Catholic priest, urged the PCSO to use hand-held terminals in vocal bets and issue receipts to bettors to limit government encroachment on their actual shares from STL.

Better PNP head

On Thursday, Panlilio expressed hope that President Aquino would find a better officer to head the Philippine National Police.

He said he has reservations for Director General Jesus Verzosa, PNP chief, because Verzosa did not heed his call to arrest Ampatuan Jr. for the "ecotourism" campaign during his incumbency. Rodolfe Olvejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Luisita a problem that won't disappear

MERALCO CHAIRMAN HAILED AS OUTSTANDING MANILAN. Manila Electric Company (Meralco) Chairman Manuel M. Lopez was bestowed with the Outstanding Manilan award for successfully transforming the core business of Meralco into a world-class and globally competitive company. He was also cited for his exemplary practice of corporate social responsibility. The Outstanding Manilan award is given to individuals who have contributed significantly to the benefit and development of the City of Manila. Shown in photo is Manila Mayor Alfredo S. Lim handing the award to Mr. Lopez during the awarding ceremonies held at the Rizal Ballroom of the Manila Hotel on June 24. Among the other awardees were President Benigno C. Aquino III, Cardinal Gaudencio B. Rosales, Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval, Justice Antonio T. Carpio, Dr. Lydia B. Echauz, Dr. Lucio C. Tan, Rev. Armie A. Lozano, Rep. Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, O.P., Rodolfo "Digoy" V. Quisido and Monique R. Pisson, Jr. The award is testament to the dedication of Meralco, along with its workers and employees, to incorporate the value of manilaan in every facet of its operations.

By Jo Maribeth Clenuevo
Inquirer Central Luzon

HACIENDA LUISITA, TARLAC—BEGOTHWISE Llio and Manuel Bitz worked all their lives at Hacienda Luisita.

Both own Mariondo Luisita Inc. (MLI) shares of stock as beneficiaries of the stock distribution option (SDO) enforced by the administration of the late President Corazon Aquino when she carried out agrarian reforms in the Cojuangco-owned sugar estate.

The Bitz siblings also share the same aspirations for a better life should Aquino's son, incoming President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, finally resolve all the issues in Luisita. But they differ on their expectations.

Llio, 52, acting president of the United Luisita Workers Union (ULWU), admits he does not expect the new president to change Luisita's sleeping.

Instead, Llio believes change could only be accomplished by his group's own initiative to pursue court cases against the Cojuangco family.

"Noynoy promised he would distribute Luisita lands in the next five years, but the Cojuangcos had made promises they could not keep," he said.

"Maybe they would have sold all their properties even after the five-year deadline just as we do not have any inkling on what happened with SCTEx," he said.

Llio, however, said he has been encouraged by Chief Justice Renato Corona's pronouncement once again to refer to the Luisita issue.

He was referring to the petition for a temporary restraining order filed at the Supreme Court by HLI that would suspend the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council's order to nullify the SDO.

The counsel wants HLI to instead turn over Luisita lands to the beneficiaries.

"Corona is brave and we have faith that the Court would decide in our favor," Llio said.

"The die has been cast. Aquino is president and he promised to reform Philippine agriculture as it is proper to be vigilant to make sure he honors his word," he said.

He said ULWU had planned to mass up at Quirino Grandstand during Aquino's inauguration to impress upon the new president that this is a very serious business.

Manuel, 47, has more faith in Aquino.

"We pray that within the first 100 days of Aquino's presidency, he would be able to end the Hacienda Luisita controversy," he said.

Alejandro Tarroja, another farmer beneficiary agreed with Manuel.

Close Arroyo ally admits fewer perks under new President

By Joy Cabiles
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—ONE OF THE CLOSEST allies of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo admitted he wouldn't be as close to incumbent President Aquino as he was to the former president.

Rep. Martin Romualdez, however, said he believed Mr. Aquino would be fair.

He said he wouldn't enjoy the same closeness to the new president as he did during the administration of Arroyo.

"There will still be projects but not specific (in the first district). I can expect less than in the previous years," said Romualdez, who had been embroiled in the controversial P1-million dinner that Arroyo and party had in New York on the height of national mourning for the death of former President Corazon Aquino late last year.

In his first year in office, Romualdez reportedly received financial assistance from Malacañang of over P1 billion for his various projects and programs for the first district of Leyte.

THE CROWD-PLEASING coin catchers of Mines View Park are no more, but former coin catchers have erected this 2-foot high statuette to remember the good times. ALVIN KASIBANG/INQUIRER

Coin catchers gone, but memory alive

By Desiree Caluza
Reporter

IN THE SUMMER OF 1977, 8-year-old boy named Roland Cayat sat near the precipice 20 feet below the tourist-viewing terrace at the popular Mines View Park in Baguio City when a 10-centavo coin dropped on his head.

The coin was not enough to buy a full meal even in the 1970s, but Cayat was happy enough to run to the nearest store and buy candy.

Boys and kindergarten children of Cayat's age used to frame the slippery clay rocks and steep slopes between of the ruins that mountain drew at them.

"I was happy. Money falling out of nowhere had caught my fancy. I was hooked. I started joining the kids who would leap over the rocks and slopes to compete for the coins. Back then, you were not from Mines View if you did not catch coins," said Cayat, who is now a 37-year-old community volunteer.

Coin-catching has long since been prohibited, but tourists, who went to hear the last days of Baguio summer this month, should look for a two-foot sculpture of a small Igorot boy in T-string, reaching out for coins with a cardboard container in a bamboo pole.

The statue, set before the Mines View viewer, now a wishing well, honors the first coin catchers of the 1950s, who were awaited for starting the tradition.

Residents here said tourists of the 1950s had flung coins into the chasm for fun. The coins attracted children who often played below the terrace.

Soon, children would flock beneath the terrace to chase after coins. Many of them called out to tourists with the phrase, "Ish money," or the sing-song chorus, "Ish money, money, gi mi money," which former coin catchers can still recite today.

Billy Alaira, a resident of Mines View Park, attested the statue partly to honor his wife, Grace, who was a six-year-old coin catcher in the 1960s.

Alaira watched the statue above the statue. "They bowed their slopes as they eagerly, and with amazing sense of balance, catch money being tossed by sure-armed visitors ..."

The statue makes the claim that Mines View Park has drawn more tourists because of the spectacle of children catching coins, "until a time came when the authorities deemed it to be unsafe and ill-threatening."

In 2005, the Department of Tourism removed Mines View Park from the city's list of tourist sites, after concluding that it no longer served that purpose.

Days are now Dock to some 2500 souvenir stores nearby. But the statue's number still witnesses the loss of tourism to the vanished coin catchers.

Generations of coin catchers still live in the park. "Those were difficult times for us because most of us were poor. The coins sometimes helped our household meet ends. They served as basic (food allowance) for school children.

But there were also kids who did not go to school anymore because catching coins was easy money to them," said Antero Bocardos, Mines View tourism officer.

"In 1981, [actor] Aur-Aur[] would come [to the Mines View Park] with a big sack of coin which he would toss to the kids. When he ran out of coins, I forgot I would run [to] bills wrapped around pebbles," Bocardos said.

"We were not scared of potential dangers such as falling off the cliff. I still have that scar on my forehead. I was hit by a coin and it bled. It doesn't discourage us. We just continued with those. It is the safest one to climb up the terrace so he could hand me another coin instead," said Grace Alaira, 50.

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Dureza says son of poll official Yusoph is alive

MARAWI CITY—ELECTION Commissioner Elias Yusoph's son Nasrullah, who was kidnapped two months ago, is alive, Jesus Dureza, of the Mindanao Development Authority, on Thursday said.

Dureza said reports that the rebels' family has been in constant contact with the kidnappers.

"We will still verify the information that the kidnappers are demanding P25 million in exchange for the release of Nasrullah," he said, adding that the military and police could not say who was behind the kidnapping.

Nasrullah was on his way home from prayer in a nearby mosque when snatched by armed men on June 21.

Dureza was here and in Digos City for a series of meetings.

On Thursday in Digos City, he met with former Mindanao Commission on Women chairperson Alicia Bagas Gibo at 10:00 in the morning. Later in the city, he separately met with Brig. Gen. Ben Dolo, chief of the 10th Infantry Brigade, and Macabol City Mayor Pepot Sulay.

"Let us all be patient while securing for the safe release of Nasrullah from the hands of the abductors," Dureza said.

Dureza, however, insisted on the government's no-ransom policy in dealing with the kidnappers.

"We insist on the no-ransom policy. We will enforce the rule of law to enshure the level of impunity," he said.

Mayor Sulay had convened the Crisis Management Committee to help in search and rescue operations for Nasrullah.

Sulay, on the other hand, vowed that the military will do everything for the safe release of the victim.

"While our concerned officers, we will track the safe return and release of Nasrullah Yusoph as a gift to the newly-elected President of the Philippines," Sulay said.

Dureza said he hoped the release would be made before Chairman Yusoph of Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte celebrate their 51st Charter Day on Sunday.

Rachel F. Chua/Inquirer Mindanao

Army claims NPA rebs weaker, fewer though still in rural areas

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE PHILIPPINE army has claimed that it has considerably reduced the strength and influence of communist rebels in Western and Central Visayas.

However, the Army also acknowledged that it has not met the June 30 deadline imposed by former President Macapagal-Arroyo to strategically defeat the rebels.

The Army's 3rd Infantry Division (3ID) based in Camp Macario Peralta in Jaro, Iloilo City, in Capiz claimed that the New People's Army (NPA) in Aklan and Panay Islands are "disorganized and a spent force."

Within the rebels' have dispersed into small groups to avoid confrontation with government troops brought by massive intelligence operations in all guerrilla fronts," said Lt. Lt. Col. Andrew Peralta, public information officer of the army's 3rd Infantry Division.

The guerrilla fronts in Panay and Negros have been reduced from 10 to 7 and 9 to 6 in the past months, Peralta said on Thursday.

He said the 3ID also successfully cleared 92 barangays of rebel presence since 2006 out of the 1,62 villages that were the focus of the counter-insurgency campaign.

The 3ID earlier declared Bohol and Cebu cleared of rebel presence and turned over peacekeeping operations in these provinces to the Philippine National Police.

Peralta said the membership of the Communist Party of the Philippines and NPA on Panay and Negros Island also went down from 746 to 2866 to 250 that twice due to battle casualties and surrenders.

But the CPP and NPA said they have not only transformed the counter-insurgency program of the Aquino administration but also achieved significant growth and development.

"In the whole span of Arroyo's rule and the implementation of their ruthless brutal Security Sponsored Plan Bantay Laya, they have completely failed in their declared objective of reducing the revolutionary armed movement to insignificance," the CPP said in a statement posted on its website.

The rebel group said its armed force has grown and had urged "thousands of firearms" from government troops in less than two years.

The CPP said it would heighten its guerrilla warfare nationwide based on its target of advancing from the "strategic defensive" to the "strategic stalemate" stage of the rebellion.

The CPP also said it would intensify its offensives this year, which would enable it to accumulate more firearms and strengthen its forces.

The military had accused the communists of using children and minors for combat, which communist guerrillas denied.

Several rebels who were captured, however, were tagged by military as deserters or as minors.

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Bomb in Abra, rites elsewhere during inaugural

MILITANT groups in Bagolo City write their wish list on a poster as President Benigno Aquino III's swearing-in nears on Wednesday

BANGUI CITY—A BOMB EXploded in Abra, pledges of unity from local government officials dwarfed with former President Macapagal-Arroyo and crowd-drawing entertainers ushered Inaugural Day on Wednesday in the provinces.

The explosion struck the town hall of Abra's capital town, Bangued, at 2 a.m. Wednesday, hours before the noon oath-taking of officials.

The ceiling of the municipal hall was limited by an improvised explosive, which, police said, might have been designed to disrupt the scheduled events there.

No one was hurt but Bangued Mayor-elect Ronnie Luis and other town officials canceled their oath-taking.

Luis advised Mayor Josmundo Valera, who was recently cleared by the Department of Justice of charges for the April 29 murder of Luna's uncle.

In Ilo, Ilocandia, former Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. formally became governor of Zambales, and assured President Aquino that he would be a cooperative official.

Ebdane served as commissioner of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) during the days of Arroyo's mother, President Corazon Aquino.

In Bagolo City, Mayor Bienvenido Trenkuan, a leader of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD, said he saw "nothing wrong with working with former political rivals."

The oath-taking ceremony of Baguio's new officials drew crowds because of materials most provided there by "Filipinas-Go-Taiwan" Enubon-Ingrid Peyrdot and the dance group Baguio Metropolitan Ballet.

Instead of paying attention to the Baguio rites, the militant Cordillera Peoples Alliance set its sights on the regular inaugural at Malcolm Square by setting up a "Freedom Wall" and a TV set that was tuned in to coverages at Quirino Grandstand.

In the City of Malolos, Bulacan, Gov. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado, a member of Lakas-Kampi-CMD, admired entertaining thoughts of joining the Liberal Party, during his inaugural ceremony which was attended by around 5,000 people.

In Pangalatan, reelected Alaminos Mayor Hernani Fajardo said he would continue to fight for the city's environment, the source of livelihood of majority of the residents.

"For the coastal villages, I ask you not to hope that I will allow illegal activities there, as practiced by some roadliners (who toil to the shoreline)," Fajardo said in his inaugural speech.

In his previous terms, Fajardo vouchsafed illegal fishing in the Hundred Islands National Park and oil coastal areas of the city. —*Reports from Eleanor Cabreza, Elmer Ferreras-Bautista, Besleer Cabico and Yolanda Fabito, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Robert Gamaya, Inquirer General Luzon*

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Manila

CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 4-2016

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHING AN ENHANCED CUSTOMS TRANSIT SYSTEM WITH THE USE OF GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEMS

Pursuant to Section 608, in relation to Sections 602, 1204, 2208, 2606, 2607 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, I HEREBY, the following rules and regulations are hereby promulgated:

I. DECLARATION OF POLICY

In line with the objectives of the Electronic or Mobile (E2M) Project of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and pursuant to the BOC's commitment to promote transparent, efficient, effective and secure movement while reducing the cost of doing business, it is the policy of the BOC to establish and operate the Use of Global Positioning System (GPS) for the tracking, monitoring and audit of transit cargo.

II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are the following:

2.1 To minimize the availability of illicit trafficking and theft, robbery and audit of transit cargo, all in a mandatory form not part of discharge or its final destination;

2.2 To establish the appropriate supporting organizational structure and mechanism for the implementation of the enhanced customs transit system;

2.3 To improve the security of the transit cargo during the transit process;

2.4 To reduce the cost to industry in complying with BOC requirements on transit cargo;

2.5 To leverage the customs processing of transit cargo via the use of developed and reliable technology and other best practices;

2.6 To promote a level playing field among the members of the Bangko Kuat Convention (BKC) on Development of transit cargo in line with the Philippine accession to BKC;

2.7 To align with the objectives of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) thereby reinforcing the nation's standing as a member of APEC Airfreight and the Nairobi Trade Facilitation (WTO);

2.8 To adopt the BKC definition of customs transit and modify the current definition of transit cargo.

III. DEFINITION OF TERMS

3.1 Customs Bonded Area - is an optional common customs clearance/release of transit area that is incorporated in the existing area used for warehouse cargo;

3.2 Breakbulk cargo - is non-containerized cargo which is normally considered as general cargo that is loaded and unloaded piece by piece or in batches (e.g. pallets or packs or bags or boxes);

3.3 Containerized cargo - cargo that uses standard intermodal containers that are standardized by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and can be loaded and secured onto certain container ships, railroad cars, trucks and trucks;

3.4 Electronic GPS-equipped Barrier Seal (EGBS) - a reusable electronic device developed with GPS technology that is activated when the cut container door is secured from the cargo is not tampered and while in transit;

3.5 Electronic GPS-equipped Container Seal Service Provider (EGBSSP) - BOC-accredited company that provides EGBS;

3.6 GPS - is a system of satellites, computers, and receivers that is used to determine the location (GPS) and time of a signal data;

3.7 Tracking and Monitoring System - a secure and interactive automated system used to provide the location and condition of transit cargo using GPS;

3.8 Transit - means the customs procedure under which goods are transported under customs control from the importing country of shipment to the importing country of shipment within the areas of the customs office where it is the office of both importation and exportation;

3.9 BOC - Bureau of Customs. Document is an original, copy and customs document referring to international documentary requirements and their customs procedures pertaining to the GPS transit trips.

IV. SCOPE

This Order shall cover goods to be transported under customs transit in the subsequent ports:

4.1 From a port of entry to another port of entry as well port for outright importation (e.g. an import shipment of cigarettes off-loaded at South Harbor and transported to Cotabato);

4.2 From a port of entry to another port of entry/internal customs office (e.g. importation of cargo at the port of manifestation and subsequent discharged at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) or the Port of Subic with the Manila Customs Processing Center or Subic Bay Freeport);

4.3 From an inland customs office to a port of entry as well as point for outright exportation (e.g. a shipment of cargo transported from Valenzuela CFS to the Manila International Container Terminal (MICT) for loading to a cargo aircraft bound for overseas);

4.4. From one port of entry/internal customs office to another port of entry/internal customs office (e.g. a shipment of cargo transported from a Cargo Freight Forwarder Manufacturing Warehouse (CFMW) under Manila to another CFMW under the Port of Manila de Subic processing into finished products for export).

Considering the existence of Freeport areas and Special Economic Zones (SEZs), which are considered as being outside the Customs territory of the Philippines, the movement of goods or capsule from a Customs office to Freeport areas and SEZs and vice versa shall be free from any Customs duties and taxes. However, the Customs territory is considered as transit operations and thereby covered by this Order.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

5.1 Electronic GPS-equipped Barrier Seal (EGBS)

All containerized transit cargoes shall be attached with EGBS to ensure that the cargoes are not tampered with while in transit.

5.2 Customs Bonded Area

For breakbulk cargo, adequate packages shall be sealed with sealing ribbon accepted and duly attached to ensure compliance with this measure on the transit time.

5.3 Customs Coordinating and Audit Office (CCAO)

To be headed by the Deputy Commissioner for Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group (ACOG), there is hereby created the Customs Coordinating and Audit Office (CCAO) under the Office of the Commissioner that shall oversee and enforce the implementation of the said monitoring the use and deployment of the various Customs seals. The responsibilities of the CCAO are as follows:

5.3.1 Coordinating with Customs Transit Monitoring and Tracking Unit (CTMTU) as prescribed below;

5.3.2 Any audit of electronic data or transit cargoes generated by the EGBS including on those that are the subject of reduction reports;

5.3.3 Developing an ongoing process for transit cargoes to determine those that have not been properly by the appropriate ports, and thus therefore for the subject of discrepancies proceedings;

5.3.4 Hearing the assessment of EGBS and to ensure that each port maintains a sufficient number; and

5.3.5 Constantly reviewing the performance of the Enhanced Customs Transit System (ECTS) and recommending appropriate policy guidelines to the Commissioner of Customs that the system remains responsive to evolving needs of industry and the international trade community.

5.4 Establishment of a Customs Transit Monitoring and Tracking Unit

A Customs Transit Monitoring and Tracking Unit (CTMTU) headed by the Deputy Collector for Operations shall be established at each major port or entry. Each CTMTU shall staffed with sufficient personnel and be equipped with the capabilities to monitor transit cargo tracking or detailed for the port. The CTMTU shall be responsible for:

5.4.1 Ensuring the collection of:

5.4.1.1 Transit Processing Fee for containerized cargo =P1,000

5.4.1.2 Transit Processing Fee for breakbulk cargo =P500

5.4.1.3 Container Security Fee - $5 per TEU

5.4.2 Updating the transit cargo information code into transit system;

5.4.3 Review of transit cargo information and time of arrival;

5.4.4 Informing the receiving port of destination of the pending arrival of the transit cargo as well as for estimated date and time of arrival;

5.4.5 Tracking and monitoring the transit cargo while in transit;

5.4.6 Informing the POD consignee of any unauthorized diversion from designated route; and

5.4.7 Checking for any breach in the integrity of the EGBS as Customs seal.

VI. ACCREDITATION OF CARRIER

The Accreditation Committee is as created by BOC and headed by the Deputy Commissioner for ACOG shall accredit qualified private entities that would be allowed to operate the required number of EGBS seals and the corresponding monitoring system.

6.1 Accreditation Criteria

The Accreditation Committee shall observe the customary accreditation criteria of due diligence and assessment any shareholders thereto in the accomplishment for approval.

6.2 Accreditation Process

6.2.1 Through the Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee"), the BOC shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation of EGBSSPs. The invitation shall include the Eligibility Requirements.

6.2.2 A non-refundable processing fee in the amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) shall be imposed.

6.2.3 The Committee shall organize a Quality Assurance Team (QAT) composed of two (2) officers of the Bureau and one (1) officer not belonging to the Bureau, charged with determining the competence of the committee conducted a seminar to the representatives. Those requirements shall also include the following: (a) Letter of Intent; (b) Proof of Payment.

6.2.4 After the conduct of test and site visits, the Committee shall only qualify not more than three (3) candidates for accreditation.

6.2.5 The Committee shall review and evaluate the documents submitted by the qualified candidates for accreditation.

6.2.6 The Committee shall endorse to prequalified EGBSSPs the terms of Agreement (TOR) and the Non-Disclosure Understanding which shall be signed by their authorized officials.

6.2.7 All such documents shall be submitted within the period as may be prescribed by the Committee. Failure to submit any of the documents within the prescribed period shall disqualify the applicant.

6.2.8 The Committee shall review and evaluate the documents submitted by the qualified candidates for accreditation.

6.2.9 The Committee shall endorse to prequalified EGBSSPs the terms of Agreement (TOR) and the Non-Disclosure Understanding which shall be signed by their authorized officials.

6.2.10 All such documents shall be submitted within the period as may be prescribed by the Committee. Failure to submit any of the documents within the prescribed period shall disqualify the applicant.

6.2.11 The Committee shall review and evaluate the documents submitted by the qualified candidates for accreditation.

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6.2.13 All such documents shall be submitted within the period as may be prescribed by the Committee. Failure to submit any of the documents within the prescribed period shall disqualify the applicant.

6.2.14 The Committee shall review and evaluate the documents submitted by the qualified candidates for accreditation.

6.2.15 The Committee shall endorse to prequalified EGBSSPs the terms of Agreement (TOR) and the Non-Disclosure Understanding which shall be signed by their authorized officials.

6.2.16 All such documents shall be submitted within the period as may be prescribed by the Committee. Failure to submit any of the documents within the prescribed period shall disqualify the applicant.

6.3 Conditions for Accreditation

6.3.1 Service Level Agreement

6.3.1.1 The accredited EGBSSP shall enter into a service level agreement (SLA) with BOC. The SLA shall expressly provide among others that the EGBSSP is responsible for ensuring that:

6.3.1.2 Only authorized and registered EGBS is used to seal transit cargo;

6.3.1.3 Each unit has a sufficient number of EGBS;

6.3.1.4 EGBS is properly maintained and are fully charged before being deployed;

6.3.1.5 EGBS is always properly accounted for and complete records shall be kept;

6.3.1.6 The required hardware and software are completely tested and properly deployed/installed;

6.3.1.7 Sufficient number of personnel in each port where the system is to be implemented are trained;

6.3.1.8 Training on sealing, tracking, monitoring and audit and monitoring are manuals are provided;

6.3.1.9 Preparation and implementation software and hardware is conducted; and

6.3.1.10 The system is sufficiently secure to prevent unauthorized access in the tracking and monitoring process and the data that the system generates.

The SLA should also spell out basic technical features of the GPS service, such as, but not limited to, location verification, alert, monitoring, a reliable network, interoperable continuity, geo, short, provided measures to avoid unnecessary delays in the transfer of cargo due to the use of EGBS service.

6.3.2 Performance Bond

The accredited EGBSSP shall post a Performance Bond, issued as a BOC-accredited surety company, amounting to Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00), valid for one (1) year, for the faithful performance of the obligations arising from any breach of undertaking by the accredited EGBSSP after the same has been implemented in an acceptable manner.

6.3.3 Technical Acceptance Tests and Evaluation

The pre-qualified candidate EGBSSP must successfully pass the technical acceptance tests including data security and integrity, online monitoring system, and other technical requirements. The tests shall be conducted by the QAT for accreditation. The QAT shall also conduct a post-technical evaluation and validation in determining whether the EGBSSP qualified for conditional accreditation.

6.3.4 Record and Reviewing of Accreditation

The approved EGBSSP shall be given an accreditation status for a period of three (3) consecutive years. Outcome of the six-month probationary period shall be reviewed by the Committee to determine the compliance of the quality of its performance as stipulated by the Service Level Agreement (SLA), and compliance with Eligibility Requirements.

6.4 Technical Requirements

The EGBSSP shall be capable of providing the following:

6.4.1 EGBS as Customs Seal

EGBS as Customs seal shall be a reusable electronic device equipped with GPS that can act as a secure seal to the container door to ensure that the cargo is not tampered with while in transit. It shall have the following features:

6.4.1.1 It shall be strong and durable using material with sufficient strength to prevent unauthorized breakage and deterioration due to weather conditions (moisture action, etc.) or unintended tampering;

6.4.1.2 It shall be secured equipped with a tamper-proof container, GPS with at least a 2-G cap battery life;

6.4.1.3 It shall be capable of being affixed easily and quickly as well as removed by authorized personnel;

6.4.1.4 It should transmit a signal to alert the Customs control database that said has been tampered and the container door opened;

6.4.1.5 It should be capable monitoring and recording each operation be registered with the CCAO and marked with a unique serialized control number; and

6.4.1.6 It shall have visible marks "Tampering of the Customs Seal is a criminal offense under Customs Law."

6.4.2 The Tracking and Monitoring System

The EGBSP shall provide BOC – at no cost to BOC – with the necessary computers and software to effectively track and monitor the transit cargo while in transit. The tracking and monitoring system shall meet the following minimum standards:

6.4.2.1 It should allow real-time tracking by BOC of the transit cargo through GPS;

6.4.2.2 The system should be sufficiently secure to prevent unauthorized access to the tracking and monitoring process and the data that the system generates;

6.4.2.3 The system should be capable of alerting BOC-customs of unauthorized diversion from predetermined route; and

6.4.2.4 The system should be able to generate and store historical data of the transit cargo from the port of discharge to the final destination. The data should be archived and be easily accessed according to predetermined criteria.

6.4.3 EGBS Receiver and Its Major Parts

The EGBSSP should be able to establish a network to effectively track and monitor the deployment and use of EGBS. In case there is where a sufficient number of fully functioning cargo EGBS is damaged beyond repair, EGBS in some areas such cases are required for transit cargo.

6.4.4 Monitoring and Tracking Fee

6.4.4.1 The monitoring and tracking fee shall not be collected by the EGBSSP shall be collected from and subject to disclosure of the BOC.

6.4.4.2 To keep down transportation costs of the transit cargo process to minimize awaiting of the mode of transfer, the EGBSSP should offer security payment schemes, one time should be collected by the EGBSSP from the importer during port intermediate stops from the duration of having to shoulder investment costs that usually underlie long time use.

6.4.5 Outreach Trainings

EGBSSP should conduct trainings in sealing, tracking monitoring and audit and troubleshooting user manuals shall therefore be made available by the EGBSSP.

6.5 Revocation of Accreditation

Failure to fulfill any of the above criteria would be basis for denial or revocation of accreditation.

VII. APPEALS PANEL PROCEDURE

The Commissioner shall issue a Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) on the enhanced customs transit system incorporating the following, among others:

7.1 The transit cargo shall be subjected to Electronic criteria;

7.2 Through the GPS/EGBS, the integrity, location and status of the port of discharge shall ensure that the transit cargo is securely sealed with the appropriate EGBS;

7.3 The CTMTU of the port of discharge shall immediately notify through email, the supervising Port Collector and the CCAO about the transit cargo;

7.4 The CTMTU of the port destination shall be primarily responsible for monitoring the transit cargo while in transit and in the determination of there is a breach in the integrity of the sealed the transit cargo; and

7.5 The CTMTU of the port destination shall notify the CTMTU of the port of discharge of the arrival of the transit cargo.

VIII. REPORTING SYSTEM

Each CTMTU shall submit to CCAO the following computerized transit reports generated from the Monitoring and Tracking System on a daily basis:

8.1 Shipment released list of containers, declarant's permit number, date);

8.2 Shipment removal list of containers declarant's permit number, date, contact (date/departing Point); and

8.3 Matching report.

IX. AGREEMENT WITH THE PNP AND OTHER AUTHORIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The Commissioner of Customs is mandated to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Philippine National Police (PNP) and other authorized Law Enforcement Agencies to pursue transit cargo when any unauthorized diversion from designated transit route occurs.

X. PENALTY

The penalties prescribed under the TCCP, as amended, as may be enforced or applicable shall be imposed for violations of the provisions of this Order.

Likewise, any violation of any of the provisions of this Order shall cause the suspension or revocation of the accreditation of the EGBSSP as the case may be without prejudice to the filing of criminal, civil and/or administrative charges and/or the imposition of administrative sanctions, and/or a combination thereof, as the case may be, against the EGBSSP, if warranted.

In addition to the sanctions provided under the TCCP, as amended, and Civil Service laws, rules and regulations, any BOC official and/or employee found to have violated any of the provisions of this Order shall be immediately relieved from duty and shall be subject to summary dismissal proceedings, as mandated by existing rules or assigned to a non-sensitive position in the BOC.

XI. PILOT PROJECT

The BOC may conduct a Pilot Project and before full implementation of the system under such terms and conditions imposed by the Commissioner of Customs.

XII. REPEALING CLAUSE

All orders, memorandum, circulars and such other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and/or deemed modified accordingly.

XIII. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If any part or provision of this Order is held unconstitutional or illegal, the remaining parts or provisions shall remain valid and unaffected.

XIV. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE

This order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

BIENVENIDO L. REVILLA, JR.
Commissioner of Customs

APPROVED:

[signature]
MARGARITA D. TORRES
Secretary of Finance
Date: June 21, 2016
CO-0498

Flowering plant blamed for rise in dengue cases

BAUGO CITY—HEALTH OFFICIALS have blamed a flowering plant for the increase in the number of dengue cases in the Cordillera region and Ilocos Norte, and not the wet and cold months of the province's climate that it once, now that the rains have resumed.

But the Department of Health (DOH) stopped short of discouraging the propagation in Benguet and Ilocos Norte of bromeliad blooms (bromeliaceae), which have become common household plants here.

The DOH has been alarmed by the increase in the number of dengue cases in the Cordillera after hitting 158 cases from January to June. Ilocos has 167 cases.

Ursula Segundo, a DOH entomologist, said the Ilocos region sees a 99-percent increase from last year's figures in Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and Apayao.

Dr. Abner Marrero, DOH medical officer who led an epidemiology team in Ilocos, said they were certain bromeliads, which are often holding plants belonging to the pineapple family, have been breeding dengue-carrying mosquitoes.

THE BROMELIAD being blamed for some health officials for an increase in the number of dengue cases in at least two Ilocos towns.

Marrero said the team went last week to Barangay Bagacay in Dingras, which was hardest hit by bromeliad. This village has a high number of dengue cases.

"Because bromeliads are diversified versions of pineapples, the bromeliad plants are the natural breeding sites for the Aedes aegypti mosquitoes [the species identified with dengue]. Aside from bromeliads, there were also fruit species located in the area, such as jackfruit, that contain natural breeding sites for the mosquitoes," Marrero said.

Segundo said Ilocos rice paddies are not natural homes for the dengue mosquitoes because the common house mosquitoes (Culex quinquefasciatus) already thrive in stagnant paddy waters.

"Culex mosquitoes do not carry dengue. If the dengue mosquito (Aedes) is active in rice paddies, then we will have a problem because we will have a many cases," she said.

The DOH said the mosquito eggs that lay dormant during the long drought have started to hatch because of the monsoon rains.

Like in other parts of the country, dengue mosquitoes also thrive in open containers like water drums, which fill up during rains. "Households should be careful [about] how they display flower vases, since we have noticed that cases of dengue are noted in communities where there are flower vases. Flower vases are breeding sites for dengue mosquitoes[,]" said Candelario Ebeng, who heads the DOH operations, control and communication cluster office for the Cordillera.

Dingras residents have embarked on a clean-up drive. Marrero said they should not limit dry-season household detergent but enough acid to kill dengue mosquitoes, Inquirer Northern Luzon

FORMER Ilocos Town Mayor Ramogin "Herning" Hernandez learned how to make "kulambo" and waged odds during his childhood days. He became mayor twice but was defeated in 2007 and returned to selling kulambo and other products.

'Kulambo' vendor loses bid for new term as mayor, accepts fate, returns to trade

BIAAN, BATANGAS—FROM selling kulambo (mosquito net), which made him travel to many places in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, Ramogin "Herning" Hernandez said only recently that he also became the town's mayor.

After a term, however, he sought reelection in May 2010 and lost but by 1,000 votes.

As soon as he knew that his opponent for the mayoral race was winning, he accepted his loss, greeted the newly elected mayor and thanked God.

Now, he's back selling kulambo.

Hardships

"Mahirap talaga ang maging mahirap [It's really tough to be poor]," the 66-year-old Herning said, recalling how difficult it had been trying to make a living selling kulambo.

His father was Ilocos but Ilocano, while his mother, a native here.

Both his parents were mosquito net vendors, though which they met and got married, he is the eldest of six children.

Herning said his father had so many wives which caused the latter's on-and-off relationship with his mother.

As the eldest among siblings and while their mother was away working, he was the one who did all household chores—cooking, cleaning the house, feeding his younger siblings and putting them to sleep.

He also remembered feeding his younger siblings their son's (one) from boiling rice while they made coffee from fried grains of rice.

In his childhood years, Herning already learned how to make kulambo and weave cloth. He also used to sell rice candy.

In high school, he was selling kulambo with his mother.

In college days, he would sell kulambo during the semestral break or vacation but his earnings weren't enough to keep him enrolled as a chemistry/engineering student in Manuel Luis Quezon University in Manila because he didn't have any money left for allowance.

It was then he started traveling to Dumpanga, Bagiuo, the Visayas and Mindanao to sell kulambo.

At the age of 22 in 1966, he

> 'There was a time that I would stop the car at a bridge and would think of jumping into the river...'

stayed in Dumbongan where he met and married his wife.

They decided to live in Dumbongan and established their first store. They used blankets for walls in their home and for lambo and pieces of leftover cloth for a roof.

In 1973, during martial law, a cousin was killed, making him decide to leave Dumbongan and transfer to Dumahuhon, Leyte, where they continued selling their product.

Realization

In 1976, he decided to return to Ilocos, as he was not happy in Leyte because of the bad influence of his peers.

Herning said he almost lost everything because of the vices he had learned from his friends there. He then recalled how the risks created his core family.

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Little by little, he was able to build a shop for sewing bed sheet, pillow sheet and blankets.

"From through I earned a store and the shop already [didn't stop the lambo business]," Herning said.

In the 1980s, a fire hit his store due to an unattended LPG tank. Everything was wasted that he rebuilt the store.

Unfortunately in 1998, a fire struck and hit his store again. He did not rebuild it until 2000.

"He told me products along the street for less than those might be hit by a fire again," Herning said.

From his profit from his sewing shop and selling kulambo, he was able to build a piggery where he rears 150 breeders now.

Distress

He has also acquired a lot which he eventually gave to his children and some fishers farmers.

Herning said his greatest disappointment was when he lost in 2007 his trucking and hardware business that he started in 1999 because of a promise made by a godson.

He signed as a caretaker for his godson's loan from a bank which the latter failed to pay.

As a result, Herning had to produce P11 million by selling some of his property.

"There was a time that I would stop the car at a bridge and would think of jumping into the river," said Herning, who had thought of suicide.

From the mayor's post, however, he went on with his life.

He is now one of the owners of the Ilocos Pinkian Dendrill, has a piggery farm, has a building where he sells kulambo, hectares of land and a sewing shop.

Retired politician was not really in his plans. All he wanted was a simple and peaceful life. But people pushed him to become councilor in 2001 and mayor in 2007.

He never ran again after losing his first term because sometimes even if a lot of people pushed him to do it.

"Once is enough. People might think that I lust for power," he said.

Life after politics

Herning admitted that the sale of kulambo is declining because different products against mosquitoes are now being offered at malls so he decided to introduce other items in his store, such as pillow cases, blankets, umbrellas, flat irons, bed sheets, mats, ready-made curtains and plastic covers.

He also said he was no longer selling mosquito nets made in the Philippines because they have become expensive.

His products are mainly from China and Korea because, he said, these are cheaper and flow-looking. Sharmaine Arnaldo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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Gov denies Danding pressure on open pit mining

BOROMADAL CITY—SOUTH Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes yesterday denied linking businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco to efforts to exact pressure for her not to sign an ordinance that would ban open pit mining in the province.

"In fairness to Mr. Cojuangco, he never called me up and he did not exert any pressure to convince me from signing the environment code," Fuentes told the Inquirer by phone.

She was erroneously reported ed on Wednesday by the Inquirer as having rescinded pressure exerted on her by Cojuangco not to sign the mining code.

Fuentes, who went to Basilio Gondoza second district representative to the last elections, also said she has not resigned from the NPC.

"We have with NPC for 16 years and Mr. Cojuangco has never tried to influence my decision. So I have no reason to resign from the party," Fuentes said.

It was first reported by a local affiliate of TV network ABS-CBN on Tuesday that Cojuangco called Fuentes up to convince her not to sign the province's new environment code and the governor quit the NPC after doing Cojuangco's.

Fuentes said she had already confronted the TV station yesterday. She signed the code two days before she ended her tenure as governor.

The signing of the environment code will halt projects of Xstrata-Tagaximo Mines Inc. (XSMI), which is currently exploring millions of tons of copper and gold deposits in Tampakan.

It would also halt coal mining projects of Cojuangco's San Miguel Corp. which bought three mining firms in Cebu Inc.

Xstrata-SMI earlier announced it would use open pit mining technology to extract copper and gold deposits in the area.

The management of Xstrata-SMI is planning to operate before a higher court the legality of the local environment code.

John Arnaldo, SMI corporate communications manager, claimed the environment code contradicted the Mining Act which allows open pit mine.

Xstrata-SMI claimed the Tampakan copper-gold project is a world-class 2.4 billion ton resource containing 15.5 million tons of copper and 23.8 million ounces of gold.

It is touted to contain the biggest copper deposit in Asia-Pacific. —Jaycee B. Zamora, Inquirer Mindanao

Tetangco slay: Cops say 2 gunmen might be involved

By Tonnie Dejas and Charlene Cayabyab
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Possibly two gunmen shot dead the brother of Bamban Governor Victoria Pineda Tetangco Jr., a Chinese-Filipino businessman and the latter's side last month, the head of a police task force investigating the murder said on Thursday.

The new information cropped up after investigators on Wednesday found another slug in the sport utility vehicle (SUV) where police found the bodies of Rene Tetangco, his business partner Heinrich "Jack" Tiap and Dennis Quintos on June 3 in Angeles City.

Police sought the help of personnel from a car manufacturing company in removing the carpet and rear covers of the SUV, which was owned by Tiap.

The slug, said to be from an M-16 Armalite rifle, was embedded at the back seat where Quintos was found dead, said Senior Supt. Pernie Rosario, task force chief.

"I theorized this slug hit Quintos," Rosario told the Inquirer by telephone. The ballistic inspector, Rosario said, theorized it was fired from the right side of the vehicle.

He said the discovery of the slug changed two previous theories in the killing. That there was a lone gunman and that the other three victims bore bullet wounds on the left side of their bodies.

To know if the suspect or suspects used one or two firearms, the crime laboratory in the Camp Crame police headquarters here set to submit the slug for tests at the Philippine National Police's headquarters in Camp Crame.

In turn, what investigators have are three slugs and a fragment of an empty bullet, Rosario said.

"We can determine at least how many firearms were used, the kind of gun used, if the victims were killed inside or outside the SUV and the position of the gunmen or gunmen," Rosario said.

Tetangco, a native of Apalit, Pampanga, and Tiap, a resident of this Philippine capital, were scheduled to appear as couple in Bamban town on July 16, Tiap's relatives told the Inquirer.

Based on autopsy findings, investigators estimated they were killed between 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. of June 2 when they were supposedly on their way to a sports club in Angeles City.

Police are still searching for the true crime scene, believing the three men were killed in the SUV where and merely left at where the SUV was found across Timog Park, a residential subdivision near the sports club in Angeles.

PURPLE PLAY
Performers carry purple cutouts during a street parade at the Pinyasan Festival in Dasi, Canarines Norte, on June 29. The food features pride in the town's main product, pineapple.

After 5 minutes, vice gov becomes gov

By Alex Pal
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—AGUSTIN Ramon Mariano Perdices made history Wednesday by assuming the governorship of the province of Negros Oriental after serving as vice governor for only five minutes.

Perdices, who ran and won a tight three-way race for vice governor despite charges of abuse of support from any incumbent elected official, succeeded as governor to fill the vacancy created by the death of reelected Gov. Emilio Macias II, who died of liver cancer last June 13.

Senior Board Member Noel Degamo succeeded Perdices as vice governor.

"I will never forget the reality that it was my good friend, incumbent Gov. Emilio Macias II, who was elected to office. I am only filling in for his unexpired term," Perdices said in an extemporaneous address after he took his oath before Executive Judge Pe Ladlad-Bustamante.

He vowed to continue the projects lined up by Macias for Negros Oriental.

"There has to be a continuity of good programs," he said.

"I have looked at (Macias') programs and I see that they are for the good of the province," Perdices said.

He also announced his priorities—micro-dimension would be built and more teachers would be hired. He expansion of the delivery of health care services to the rural areas through primary health care facilities and the continued promotion of organic farming methods.

Also taking their oaths of office as provincials as the Negros Oriental Convention Center were Representatives George Arnaiz and Henry Teves, the provincial board members of the three districts and the officials of the cities of Tanjay and Guihulngan and the municipalities of Ma. Catalina and Valencia.

Among Perdices' first acts was to extend the province's job center (zonal) employees by 60 days to give him time to evaluate their performances. When asked how many job seeker seekers the province has, acting Provincial Administrator Raul Hemedoda couldn't give a figure.

New gatepass system at Subic enforced July 15

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—THE Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) will implement on July 15 the electronic Gatepass Management System (GMS) for shipments admitted here and sold to areas in Bureau of Customs (BoC) territory.

SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza, in a press statement, said the new automated system "would help stem tax and duty leakages of Subic imports into the domestic market."

Arreza on Wednesday signed with Bul. Deputy Commissioner Alexander Antonio a joint memorandum order to implement the GMS after a successful run of the system starting May 20 with two Subic tourism participating.

Arreza identified the two as FIT Philippines and Microbase Transport and Equipment Inc., which used the GMS to move their shipments of oil products and vehicles sold outside of the freeport.

Arreza said the system used high-tech scanners to assess the duty-free goods" exit the gates.

"This is in keeping my wish to make Subic a model freeport," he said.

Arreza and Antonio also would ensure that the transfer of shipments in and from the freeport will be fast, easy and transparent," he added.

Antonio, meanwhile, affirmed that the BMS was designed to strengthen SBMA-BoC coordination and cooperation.

The new system would make it even harder for potential smugglers to use the port of Subic for illegal activities, Antonio said.

GMS is the second joint automation project of SBMA and BoC, coming six weeks after the deployment of the Automated Export Documentation System.

ARREZA

Albay governor tells mayors: Make education LGU's priority

LEGAZPI CITY—ALBAY GOV. Joey Salceda asked the heads of local governments in the province's 15 towns and three cities to prioritize education in their programs.

Salceda made the appeal in his speech after taking his oath as reelected Albay governor at the Peñaranda town plaza on Monday.

Vice gov Salceda, nonoperable and unmistakable," said Salceda.

He said the provincial legislature would join a one-billion-peso provincial subsidy of P5,000 per year for pupils in each of the province's 720 barangays.

The funds should be earmarked for education projects of barangays hosting public elementary and secondary schools.

Salceda said the amount for subsidy would eat up almost 50 percent of the entire economic development fund of the province.

He said the provincial government had also asked the Department of Social Welfare and Development to put 12 towns and three cities under the coverage of the National Pantawid Pilipino Program (4Ps) of the national government, which is being implemented now in Albay and Pelangan towns.

For 2010, Albay has allocated 17 percent of its entire budget to education and 17 percent to health. But, Salceda said, this is not enough.

"Even the province cannot do it alone with its limited manpower," he added.

He asked barangay officials to help bring to school children living in places with difficult terrain.

He also asked officials to encourage parents and guardians to avail themselves of the college financing programs of the province.

"We must build on the momentum of the past three years where Albay made significant gains," Salceda said.

He said on the last three years the number of college graduates in the province increased by 34 percent and college enrollment increased by 19 percent.

He said the role of teachers is not confined to teach only pupils or youth, so they simply cannot be expected to perform the task of themselves bringing children to school.

Giving access to schools to children from remote places, he said, should be the job of barangay officials.

"Without local government participation in education... it will be a big-time embarrassment for Pilipinas to become the only nation in Asia not to achieve the Millennium Development Goal, a project of the United Nations)," Salceda said. —Boy Ab Nosel, Inquirer Southern Luzon

MILF asks military not to take sides in war of Moro families

"We have been appealing to them to disengage... But after a while, they will resume fighting despite previous accords..."

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front has asked the military not to take sides in armed conflicts between feuding clans in Maguindanao and nearby provinces.

Sulo Ibrahim, chair of the MILF ceasefire committee, said the military should not be directly involved in clashes involving feuding Muslim families.

"We have already told the government ceasefire committee to ask government troops not to take sides, withdraw and join in the fighting between the families and groups in violation (And) so that we can uphold the ceasefire and the primacy of the peace process," Ibrahim said in a statement.

Military warning

Earlier, the military's 601st Infantry Brigade warned it will use force should warring clans refer members to the MILF and the Moro National Liberation Front refuse to heed calls to cease hostilities.

More than 25,000 residents have fled their homes after the heaviest of MILF commanders Ameril Umbra Kato and Commander Bandy Kasan started a series of clashes in the remote villages of Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat before and after the May 10 national elections.

"This is beginning to bring to problems," Army Brig. Gen. Timoteo Aguilares, 601st brigade chief, told reporters.

"We have been appealing to them to disengage," he said. "But after a short while, they will resume fighting despite previous ceasefire accords signed since last year."

Other skirmishes

Aside from MNLF and MILF clashes in the borders of Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat, skirmishes involving the clans, who have relatives and supporters in the two groups, also drove people out of their homes in Sultan sa Barongis and Magpet towns.

"We have observed a rampant agitation status in the past, but the problem seems to be getting bigger and has caused misery among civilians," Aguilares said.

Threat to peace

While recognizing it was the military's duty to maintain law and order, Ibrahim said he is appealing to the government to allow the MILF and the Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team (IMT) to help.

"We do not want the military to be involved because military's direct intervention will only worsen the situation which could possibly and adversely affect the ceasefire between the government and MILF," Ibrahim said, adding that the armed conflict was not between the MILF and MNLF.

"Instead, we have to maximize the utilization of the ceasefire mechanisms on the ground including the IMT and its Civilian Protection Component in addressing the situation," he said. —Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

"WATCH WHAT HAPPENS" President Aquino cradles the award when he sings a Sergio Mendes classic at the street party—a "surprise number" touted by the organizers. AP/CZAR DANCEL

P-Noy, the singer, got talent . . .

From page A1

street party Wednesday night.

"Very charming," went one critique.

"A bit offset," according to another version.

"He's a lovable President," a third listener said. "I'll be sure Manny Pacquiao, though, I'll advise him to stick to boxing."

A roaring public clamor not even a Diliwi was could stop forced the 15th President of the republic to take center stage at Quezon Memorial Circle, where some 200,000 supporters assembled for their day to office.

Moving hailed the people as his "boss" in his inaugural speech earlier in the day, the country's most powerful man apparently didn't have much of scholars.

FAVORITE UNCLE President Aquino watches time to bond with his nephew Baby James Yap during the post-inauguration street party at Quezon Memorial Circle on Wednesday night. To his right is his girlfriend, Valenzuela Councilor Shalani Soledad. AP/CZAR DANCEL

Tougher than coup

A bomb fell over the crowd as a bashful Aquino obliged and picked his way—many and unconvincingly...through the bossa Mendes classic "Watch What Happens." The Michel Legrand composition was apparently a favorite of the 50-year-old bachelor.

When the audience demanded an encore, Aquino pleaded: "Pareho ho ba kita no lang? Mas exakto pa ho nung 4 minutes ako nung '87? (Can I just recite a poem instead? This is tougher than being attached in a coup d'etat in 1987.)"

The band then struck the opening chords of "Headquarters Blues," a Freddie Aguilar hit about teenage angst, and the crowd went wild as Mr Aquino took his cue and sang out the chorus.

"You cannot refuse your boss," Mr Aquino, laughing, later told reporters in Filipino. "It was terrible! Just hear with me (Tsaka, pagsasamahan ako na)."

The President's supposedly "surprise" number was actually on the evening's program. He was item No. 26, just before the grand finale. He was supposed to sing a song—the title blurted out apparently at the last minute—with young male stars Gerald Anderson, Coco Martin and John Lloyd Cruz.

No practice

But when the President arrived at around 10 p.m., the party's main guest and performer explained to reporters that he didn't have much time to prepare.

After a few minutes watching the program, Mr Aquino rose from his seat to go to a tent backstage, where he said he was going to "practice." When he came back, he joked about looking for a substitute and that he wanted "to preserve the dignity of the Office [of the President]."

But the clamor persisted and the show must go on. By 10:45 p.m., P-Noy was on stage as the undisputed star of the night.

Many in the crowd, by then bundled in the cold rain, saluted the moment by shooting him on cell phone videos of the singing President.

It was an unprecedented spectacle for the Office of Malacañang, who seized the park's usual fence just to get a better view.

A rare moment

"You rarely see a President who sings and mingle with people like us," Patrol told the bosses.

"Most presidents only have time for social gatherings with VIPs," said the housewife, who arrived at Quezon Memorial Circle as early as 3 p.m., two hours before the festivities began.

Recording Mr. Aquino's performance on his cell phone camera, 22-year-old Vincent Rustia said the night was "unforgettable" in him.

Earliest in the day, families enjoyed the moment long before by picnicking under the trees, many of them ready with their P-Noy souvenirs bought from street vendors.

Dancing in the rain

Alberto Parreño, 36, came with one of her three young children still asleep in her arms. Undaunted and pelting rain, they were at the park as early as 9 a.m., spreading out a mat on a spot near the stage.

"We made sure we're right in front of our idol because we want him to see us," she said.

While waiting for Mr. Aquino, people danced in the rain, waving yellow banners and streamers.

The party kicked off with a celebrity-packed lineup, starting with performers who took stab at the Aquino campaign like the Noy-Noy Fellow Pilipinos Band. Blue Paper Dibs YouTube celebrity known as Juana Change), Mid-Life Crisis Band and folk singer Basil Valdepeñas.

Star circle

They were followed by an array of ABS-CBN and GMA 7 talents, among them singer Ogie Alcasid and girlfriend Regine Velasquez. Darlene Garcia, Alcasid and Velasquez also performed at the Aspires inaugural at the Quirino Grandstand.)

Actor Eddie Garcia—who dressed up for the occasion—said he was his way of "showing" his support for the new President. My mom is a fan and raised her him."

Actor Dennis, the Filipino frontman of the US rock band Journey, told the Inquirer: "I am apolitical, but I want to join the people who are all hoping for a better Philippines."

The business asked some "judges" how they found the President's performance that night.

Alcasid said he found it "very charming" and that "it's great to see him loosen up after a long day of formal activities."

For R&B singer Jay-R, "The man can carry a tune and [is] impressed. I hope he grants on Sony GMA 7 shows." For Pilipinas, "it would be a great honor to do a duet with a Philippine president."

Noel Ferrer, a talent manager and TV executive, gave P-Noy "9 for effort. He could make it or is contestant on the television singing contests on can show 'POS.'"

Simon Cowellish

But then, a Simon Cowellish review came from master mimic Willie Thompsonite, who uses impersonates P-Noy for on Wednesday only got to see some clips of his singing.

"There is no question on the quality of his voice," the comedian said. "He's got timing. He knows his music. If he were Manny Pacquiao though, I'll advise him to stick to boxing."

"All I'm saying is, he's a fun person like you and me. He's a lovable president," the man also known as Willie Nep explained.

Police said the crowd had swelled to around 200,000 by the time the President arrived. Also at the PDP was were his girlfriend Kahalad Shalani, his sisters, and nephews Josh and Baby James.

A few feet away, MMDA acting chairman Jose Lorenzo, accompanied by a group of men, also monitored the show. They were among those who stayed until the nearly seven-hour party came to a close with a 15-minute fireworks display at the wee hours of the morning. With a report from Nestor Corrupal

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DID YOU KNOW

AFTER Manuel L. Quezon's 1938 inaugural address at the Legislative Building, he proceeded to Malacañang Palace, where he was welcomed and escorted by Pilipino Scouts.
Cyrill C. Bonalenia, Inquirer Research

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VACC VIEWPOINT:

'Dacer case acid test for gov't'

By Tina G. Santos

THE HANDLING OF THE DACER-Corbito double murder case against Sen. Panfilo Lacson will be the Aquino government's "first acid test," according to the anti-crime group Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC).

"Now President Aquino handles this issue will be the first acid test of the new administration, whether it is true to its word that it will administer justice with an even hand, 'walang padrino, walang pabalato [no backer, no influence-peddling]," said Dante Jimenez, VACC chair, in a statement.

At the same time, he called on the Aquino government to ensure itself from Lacson and let the wheels of justice take its course.

Jimenez earlier expressed alarm over reports quoting Lacson as saying that he was just waiting for a friendly government to take over before he returns to the country.

Lacson, who is facing two counts of murder for the death of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito in 2000, went into hiding after an arrest

BACKGROUND STORY, A4

Crime-free Metro on P-Noy's Day

By Miko Maralit

SAVE FOR AN ISOLATED INCIDENT, METRO Manila was crime-free on the day President Aquino, or PNoy as he prefers to be called, took his oath as the country's 15th leader, according to the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO).

NCRPO spokesperson Supt. Diosdado Mirada said yesterday that no major crimes were recorded on Wednesday, especially in the hours leading to the inauguration of Aquino, the son of democracy icons Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and former President Corazon Aquino.

"The country focused its attention [on] President Aquino," he told the Inquirer over the phone. "Every one was looking forward to [his oath-taking], I suppose."

Mirada said Rizal Park, where Aquino was sworn in, was tightly monitored by a contingent of police officers aided by closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras installed in strategic locations.

Throughout the inauguration, the police said they did not spot any suspicious-looking people with the aid of the CCTV cameras which had the capability of zooming in.

Still, the CCTVs and the presence of policemen did not prevent a thief from making off with the camera and cell phone of a woman attending the event.

Mirada said the area commander where the theft happened may be reprimanded because NCRPO Director Roberto Rosales had clearly instructed his men to make sure that no untoward incidents would occur in Rizal Park, especially with some 5,000 policemen performing all over the area.

He added that security at the victory street party at the Quezon Memorial Circle on Wednesday night was also tight with no crimes recorded in the area as well.

Marikina is first SEA city to get direct loan from WB

By DJ Yap

SINGAPORE—THE EXPERIENCE of Marikina City in getting a loan from the World Bank (WB) without going through the usual bureaucratic channels was showcased in the World Cities Summit here on Wednesday.

"This is the first time this kind of direct foreign loan from a multinational happened in Southeast Asia," said outgoing Marikina Administrator Melvin Cruz as he described what the city government did to get a multimillion grant from the WB to finance flood control projects.

Cruz spoke in one of Wednesday's sessions in which several other local government leaders and policy-makers under the topic "Financing of Municipal Infrastructure" within the wider theme of "Maximizing Synergy in Cooperative Economy."

The WB funding, he said, would be spent on low-cost housing, information technology, an early warning system and dikes to prevent floods and other infrastructure projects.

"All this will go to infrastructure like housing projects, IT networks and the flood dike project. That's where the money will go. There are measures in place in my office," he said.

Although the agreement had yet to be made final, he said the negotiations would continue with the incoming administration of the new mayor, Del de Guzman.

He said the amount was in the ballpark of P300-million although the sum is not official.

"I will transfer the information we have to the incoming administration so that the agreement was not yet finished before the election. It was mulled but the World Bank people will be meeting with the new mayor," he said.

Typically, WB funding of local government projects goes through the national government but for urban approval.

Cruz said the discussion was "quite enlightening" as other city officials recounted encountering a similar problem with going through the bureaucratic channels.

"A lady from Indonesia said they were also having problems with sub-national, sub-sovereign issues. I told her, 'Just e-mail me, and I'll tell you how we did it,'" he said.

Cruz said one of the first things Marikina must be done was to ask the WB to provide the city with "capacity building activities." He added that they were also overseas the WB that they had transparent mechanisms and a clear capability to pay back the loan.

"If the city is already rich, there's no need. It's not eligible. But the WB is still looking at your capability to repay," he said.

The benefit is that the loan requires no collateral and may be paid over a 20-year period, he added.

Binay's victory party in Makati: 'A simple gathering'

By Mike Cabuja

IT WAS NOT AS GRAND AS THE ticket party thrown by President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III for his running mate.

But the "simple gathering" on Wednesday evening drew just as many like former President Estrada and ordinary campaign volunteers to the thanksgiving dinner hosted by Vice President Jejomar Binay for his supporters and friends at the house of his son, Anyone from "Junjun" Binay, Makati's new mayor, to Rascals fame.

Tents were set up on the streets as people, most of them in basic clothes and slippers, lined up before tables serving a simple feast of pancit canton, spaghetti and assorted finger food.

Some of the supporters came from the provinces, like the president's aunt, Dona Soliman, who traveled all the way from Laguna, Batal.

"I don't mind traveling for hours on for love. At least, I was able to see our new vice president," she said in Filipino.

The VIPs who came later in cars and SUVs proceeded in a room in the youngest Binay's house to offer a separate dinner was held.

Among the celebrities who dropped by were Aiminda Sigua-Reyna and her director-son Coalton, with wife Sibelle Gracie; Jinggoy Estrada's running mate in the last elections, singer Rico Puno; and former Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

Estrada, who ran with Binay but lost, arrived at around 11 p.m. and was greeted by cheers and photographers' flashbulbs.

President Aquino's uncle, Jose "Pepsy" Cojuangco, with wife Tingting and daughter Miriam, was also seen in the crowd. Miriam was joined by her husband, Robert "Jolby" Benedicto.

The vice president skipped the inaugural street party at Quezon Memorial Circle the same evening, saying it was a party organized solely for those who supported him.

Binay also held separate rites to stay making an issue of his absence at the party. "You saw us at the inauguration. Obviously, President Noynoy and I are okay with each other," he said.

FORMER President Joseph Estrada and Vice President Jejomar Binay talk shop at Wednesday's night's thanksgiving party thrown by Binay at his son's home in Makati City. NONOY ESPINA

METROBRIEFS

Dentist dies in fall at mall

A DENTIST laid to his death in Ortigas in Mall yesterday afternoon. Man-dalayong police chief Supt. Ramon de Jesus identified the victim as Dr. Elsa Ayes, 34, Magbiro, 34, married. It was not yet known if Magbiro additionally accused in fatal accident. He landed in the head when it was on the ground floor but it was still being determined which floor she came from. Dr. Segun said, Marlene Bustos, Magbiro Mall marketing representative officer, told the inspector that Magbiro fell at about 5:30 p.m., as coughing fell employees to bring her to the local city and get the police. However, Bustos said, an hour before Magbiro was brought to the hospital, 34 when she was declared dead on arrival by attending doctor. The police found small plastic vials still lying to establish what actually happened to Magbiro with Dr. Segun saying they were taking to substance. The mall continued to operate after the incident although the Board Meeting was also closed to customers. Beverly T. Mahinhid

3 thieves rob Parañaque councilor's house

THREE thieves armed with a handgun barged into the house of a Parañaque City councilor in Barangay Tambo on Wednesday night and took around P170,000 worth of valuables, Senior Supt. Gil Meh Cabilo, city police chief, said the robbers broke into the house of Councilor Eric Blanc at around 8:30 to 9:00 p.m. Blanc's wife and children arrived crying when the robbery took place but they were not harmed. Blanc said he had given to the house of a neighbor whose he wanted to talk to. The robbers, he said, took a television and their took three jail phones, several watches, the bag of Blanc's wife which contained cash, a jewelry box, a gaming device and a laptop computer. Blanc's wife told the police that the robbers looked like they were just in their teens. Mike Navarro

SAFETY FIRST
Students of the Parañaque National High School in Barangay San Dionisio, Parañaque City, sometimes cross the street to get to their school with the installation of this sign. LEONARDO SANTIAGO

New officials of Mandaluyong, Marikina take oath

By Beverly T. Mahinhid

LOCAL OFFICIALS OF THE cities of Mandaluyong and Marikina took their oaths of office before Chief Justice Renato Corona in separate inauguration ceremonies yesterday.

Led by Mayor Benhur Abalos, Mandaluyong city officials took their oaths at the Mandaluyong Gymnasium in the morning.

Abalos was reelected mayor in the last elections. He is also the concurrent president of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines.

Mandaluyong Rep. Neptali Gonzales II, on the other hand, took his oath before Sen. Francis Escudero at the same venue.

In his inaugural speech, Abalos declared development plans for the city such as the construction of a new road at the back of Gilmore Tavern as an alternative thoroughfare to reach Ft. Bonifacio.

He said plans to widen Shaw Boulevard, near Lourdes School and Our Lee Depot building, are also under way as part of a project to create another bus lane in the area.

Corona then proceeded to Marikina City in the afternoon to administer the oath to newly elected officials of the city.

The above-capitol's new mayor, Del de Guzman, served as congressman from 1992 until 2004 under then Mayor Bayani Fernando. He was elected congressman from 2007 until 2010.

In the late elections, De Guzman, who ran under the Gilberd Party, defeated the former vice mayor, Marcos Andres, said to be a protégé of outgoing Mayor Bhandie Fernando who had served as Marikina mayor for the past nine years.

She is the wife of Bayani Fernando, a vice presidential candidate in the last May polls.

Corona, a Marikina resident, also administered the oaths to the newly elected vice mayor, Nelson Celis, the new councilors as well as reelected First District Rep. Marcelino Teodoro and new Rep. Miro Quimbo of the Second District.

Quimbo headed the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) from 2002 to 2009.

KEY NOTING Associate Chief Justice Renato Corona and Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos are all sentiments during yesterday's oath taking of the city's elected officials at the city gymnasium. Escudero and Corona were the guests of honor. BENJAMIN PAGUIRIGAN

'Dacer case acid test'

Front page, A11

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New LRT station opens in 2 weeks

By Paolo G. Montecillo

COMMUTERS WILL SOON BE ABLE TO use the new Roosevelt Station in Quezon City on the Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line 1 in two weeks, part of measures to help decongest traffic in the stretch of Metro Manila.

The new station is the second of three LRT stations to be opened as part of the "closing the loop" project linking LRT Line 1 to Edsa's Metro Rail Transit (MRT) train system.

"We hope we can get it done in two weeks, but definitely, it will be opened this month," said LRT Authority Administrator Melquiades Robles.

On Thursday, the agency said the new station would have four operational entrances to the existing Santo Tomas Depot, if not for an accident earlier this month when two trains bumped into each other at the demarcation station.

The accident forced the LRTA to double check all the safety systems in place to make sure the existing depot is not exposed to any danger.

The new station will help decongest traffic along Roosevelt and Quezon Avenues, Commuters from Malabon, Navotas and Project 8 areas also stand to benefit from the new station.

Trains will be operating every six minutes from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

Robles said the agency is also looking at the possibility of extending the operating hours of the LRT to 24 hours.

The LRTA is also looking at the possibility of extending the LRT Line 1 to Cavite province.

Robles said the agency is also looking at the possibility of extending the LRT Line 1 to Cavite province.

US police reopen probe of Gore 'groping' case

PORTLAND, OREGON—Police on Wednesday said they are reopening an investigation into an Oregon massage therapist's allegations that former Vice President Al Gore groped her in an upscale hotel in 2006.

In a brief statement, the Portland Police Bureau did not say why it was reexamining the investigation. Police earlier said they recommended the case closed because there was no evidence.

Kelee Kreider, a spokesperson for Gore, said the former vice president "unequivocally and categorically" denied the sexually unwanted sexual advances during a massage appointment on Oct. 20, 2006, at the downtown Hotel Lucia, where Gore was reportedly registered as "Mr. Bruce." Gore was in Portland to deliver a speech on climate change.

The story first broke when the National Enquirer reported the allegations a week ago.

The AP does not generally identify people who say they are victims of sex crimes.

Portland police last week said the woman's lawyer came to them with the allegations in 2008 but that the woman canceled appointments with detectives. The case reopened in January 2009, when detectives interviewed the woman but determined there was insufficient evidence to support the allegations.

According to transcripts of the 2009 interview, the masseuse described the allegations at length. She said Gore groped, kissed and pinned her down on a bed. She told Gore he was acting like a "crazed sex poodle," according to the transcript.

The woman said she felt there would be consequences if she didn't cooperate.

"I feared that if I ran for the door to get out, I could or would be violently accosted by some security detail," she said. "I felt certain that any resistance to the sexual compliance from him or the hotel, could also destroy my work reputation."

While trying to pack up, she said Gore "wrapped me in an unacceptable embrace," looked her in the eyes and touched her back, buttocks and breasts. She said she asked Gore to stop several times.

"I finally told him and said, 'you're being a crazed sex poodle,' feeling he'd realize how out of line he was being, yet he persisted," she told Det. Molly Reed.

The woman said Gore's "distasteful [Global Warming]" presentation followed from his actions and made her afraid.

"I did not want to get hurt and I did not want to get raped," she said.

She said Gore demanded she drink orgasm, though she told him she doesn't drink alcohol. She said Gore became enraged when she refused his advances.

"This is like people going crazy on the MAX (Portland's public transit system) and you want to get all broken they beat you up," she said.

During the interview, the woman mentioned working as a masseuse for the local trapeze of the Cavorting Circus, members of former professional wrestler Hulk Hogan's family and NBA players.

After the alleged incident, the woman said she was devastated from contacting the police to the Portland Mercury, about the refery to as "The Bittersweet Tribe," and of which the county herself a member.

"It's like being the ultimate traitor," the woman said.

One friend "was basically telling me to just suck it up, only spoke the world's going to be destroyed from global warming," she said.

Gore and wife Tipper announced that they are separating on June 1 in an e-mail to friends. AP

GORE

She also said: 'the Gores committed no crime or deception, misleading and inaccurate story generated by cablevision."

The masseuse alleges Gore made unwanted sexual advances during a massage appointment on Oct. 20, 2006,

Iceland's gay PM weds longtime girlfriend

STOCKHOLM—ICELAND'S prime minister made history last week when she wed her longtime girlfriend, becoming the world's first head of government to enter a gay marriage.

But fellow Nordic nations barely noticed when 67-year-old Johanna Sigurdardottir tied the knot with her longtime partner—a milestone that would still, despite advances in gay rights, be off limits in elsewhere.

Scandinavia has had a long tradition of tolerance—and cross-dressing lawmakers and gay bishops have become part of the landscape.

"There is some kind of passion for social justice here," reporter Cristina Gallardo quoted lawmaker Fredrick Federley said. "That everybody should be treated the same."

Gay rights activists said Europe in general has a better record on accepting gays at the highest levels of government than the United States.

"In the current climate of US public opinion it is impossible to imagine a US president who is openly gay and who marries their longtime partner," said Peter Tatchell, spokesperson for the London-based gay human rights group Outrage.

"In Europe the reaction is completely different—people just don't care."

Although no openly gay American has made a potentially winning run for president, gay men and lesbians have made significant advances in recent years in winning other elected offices in the United States while being open about their same-sex partners.

In Europe, the situation varies.

Several top-level politicians are openly gay, including Sweden's Environment Minister Andreas Carlgren and Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoe, considered a possible contender for the 2012 presidential elections.

But a gay head of government would be impossible in strong Catholic nations.

"We will never see a gay prime minister in Italy. The minister of the Catholic Church is too strong," said Giuseppina Masoni, 66, from Sicily who lives in Rome. "We have institutions that make us believe that ... living homosexual is simply not the right thing to do." AP

GAY pair: PM Iceland Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir married her long-time partner in a new law legalizing homosexual marriages. AFP

Merkel's choice wins German presidency

BERLIN—CHANCELLOR Angela Merkel's handpicked presidential candidate limped to victory after three rounds of voting by a special assembly on Wednesday, a weak showing that deeply damaged her political fortunes.

What should have been a rubber-stamp victory for the candidate, Christian Wulff, instead turned into a crushing battle as rebels in the governing parties took advantage of the secret ballot to vent their frustrations with the chancellor.

So bad as it was for Merkel, it could have been much worse. Ahead of the vote, analysts said that an agent victory by the main opposition candidate, Joachim Gauck, a former East German dissident and Protestant pastor, would deal such a severe blow to Merkel's leadership that it might set in motion a crisis that would end her reign as chancellor, either through new elections or through a coup within her Christian Democratic party.

Merkel's inability to take advantage of a clear majority in the special assembly reinforced the impression of political circles and the German news media that she was losing her grip on her increasingly fractious coalition government less than a year after winning a second term.

In the third round of voting, Wulff won 625 votes out of votes by 1,244 representatives to the assembly that chooses the president, a largely ceremonial figure. Wulff's line thought 644 votes to the assembly, but the tally was still enough to make Wulff the 10th president in Germany's post-World War II federal republic.

In a restrained victory speech that was no sooner it was announced in bonn, Wulff said he had great respect for those who did not vote for him.

"I am convinced that with you, too, there will be fruitful cooperation," Wulff said.

Just how severe the damage done to Merkel's leadership was not immediately clear. In an editorial, the daily newspaper General-Anzeiger called the presidential election "the last warning" for the government "to finally bring the quarrels and skirmishes of recent months to an end." NYTNS

Toyota warns of engine fault in Lexus, Crown models

TOKYO—TOYOTA MOTOR warned on Thursday of an engine fault worldwide in eight models of its luxury Lexus and Crown sedans, potentially requiring a recall that could affect up to 270,000 units.

"The defective engines, whose valve springs are not working properly, may halt in the worst case scenario while driving," Toyota spokesperson Hideki Takizawa said. "The company is preparing for taking market measures as soon as possible." He did not rule out a recall announcement in the future.

The defective 4.6-liter V-shaped 8.3-liter V8 engines are installed in eight top-line models, including some hybrids—the Lexus GS350, GS450h, GS460, LS460, LS460L, LS600h and LS600hL, as well as Crown sedans, he said.

As many as 270,000 units worldwide, including some 90,000 cars in Japan, may be affected if the company decides to pull the models.

The carmaker's largen automaker has been hit by a series of safety recalls and has pulled around 18 million vehicles worldwide since late last year.

The carmaker on Wednesday issued a recall of 50,335 royalty in Japan to fix faulty airbags and seatbelts in models including Corollas built between 2000-2001.

Toyota and rivals Honda, Nissan and Mitsubishi Motors will between them recall more than 580,000 vehicles in Japan between the of the issue. AFP

Suspected paymaster in Russia-US spy scandal vanishes

MOSCOW—A KEY SUSPECT IN the Russia-US spy scandal vanished on Wednesday in Cyprus after a hotel court on the divided Mediterranean island released the alleged Kremlin paymaster on bail.

The disappearance of Christopher Metsos, said on he on his way to the, provoked a scramble over the island's major efforts to reset ties between Washington and Moscow.

Metsos, who purports to be a Canadian citizen, is accused of being the paymaster for a "deep cover" cell of spies in the United States, funnelling them with money and swapping bags secretly with other Russian operatives.

The spy ring was crushed open on Monday as FBI agents finally pounced on 10 alleged Russian agents in Boston, New York and the Washington area after more than a decade of authorities surveillance operations.

Metsos, the 11th suspect, was still at large at the time, but was arrested early on Tuesday at Cyprus's Larnaca airport in his latest bid to board a flight to the Belgium.

To the dismay of US justice officials, Metsos was not detained enough of a flight risk to be kept behind bars until he could be extradited to the United States.

The local court allowed him to go free on 28,500 euros ($$, 500 dollars) bail as long as he was resident in the passport and travel documents, pending an extradition hearing on July 29.

There was no sign of the suspected secret agent when Cyprus police rushed to his hotel room on Wednesday after he failed to sign in at a Larnaca police station between 6 and 8 pm., breaking the terms of his bail.

An arrest warrant is now out for Metsos, who could seek to take advantage of the fact that the breakaway Turkish Cypriot statelet in the north of the island has no extradition treaties and serves as a well-known haven for fugitives.

Staff at his hotel in Larnaca said Metsos was last seen at the reception on Tuesday evening and had paid for two weeks in advance with a credit card.

The remaining 10 spy suspects Anna Chapman, Mikhail Vasenkov and Richard Murphy to be sent to federal courts in Boston, New York and Alexandria, Virginia.

Washington and Moscow have sought to downplay the Cold War-style arrests, with US officials insisting it will not damage President Barack Obama's restored "reset" of ties with the Kremlin.

The State Department has styled the episode as a remnant of the Cold War years unlikely to strain between spymasters in Moscow and Washington that would not have a lasting impact on ties.

METSOS

Spokesperson Philip Crowley reaffirmed on Wednesday that the department was "not underplaying" any diplomatic actions against Moscow and said the Obama administration wants to "move beyond" the incident.

The case hark back to Cold War brouhahas with the use of false identities and labs of buried money and hidden video cameras that read like the pages of soap novel.

During the Cold War, the discovery of spy rings often led to the expulsion of diplomats by either the United States or Soviet Union, which sometimes triggered similar responses from the other side.

The Russian foreign ministry—which initially demanded explanations from Washington, dismissing the arrests as groundless—has since said it expects the scandal will not hurt relations given the leaders' Obama's mutual responses. AFP

Friend accused of cheating L'Oreal heiress out of a billion euros

SAINTEBRI, FRANCE—A celebrity photographer goes on trial on Thursday accused of cheating the aging heiress of the L'Oreal cosmetics empire Liliane Bettencourt out of a billion euros.

The latest battle over the family's fortune has been complicated by a separate tax evasion scandal that hit Bettencourt this month, implicating Labour Minister Eric Woerth and embarrassing Nicolas Sarkozy's government.

The trial was due to start at 9:30 a.m. (0730 GMT) at a court in Nanterre, west of Paris, and run to July 6, but was likely to be immediately postponed after lawyers agreed to seek an adjournment as nearly evidence in the tax case.

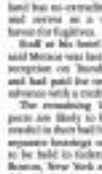
Thursday's trial pits the photographer and socialite Francoise-Marie Meurs against Francoise Bettencourt-Meyers, the daughter of 87-year-old Liliane, France's richest woman.

Dubbed the "photographer to the stars" after shooting the likes of US actor Johnny Depp and Princess Caroline of Monaco, became close friends with Bettencourt after meeting her at a dinner party in 1969.

The charge sheet accuses Meurs, 63, of "fraudulently exploiting the age and infirmity of Bettencourt, who gave him numerous paintings, cash and insurance policies worth a billion euros (about $1.27billion).

Both he and Liliane Bettencourt have rejected the daughter's claims and accused her of trying to curb in on her inheritance prematurely.

"I give to my loved ones and that is my choice," Le Monde newspaper quoted Bettencourt as saying recently.



LILIANE BETTENCOURT

Liliane Bettencourt was the sole heir of the global shampoo and beauty products company L'Oreal that her father founded. Her current fortune has been estimated at 17 billion euros ($$21billion).

Bettencourt-Meyers accuses Banier of attempting to alter the death of her mother's husband, working to estrange her from her family and trying to persuade her to adopt him, according to court documents.

Banier told Le Monde last year that Bettencourt was sane and treated him generously as a friend. "Those were gifts that, for a long time, I refused. Those gifts came from a completely sane woman," he said.

If convicted, he faces up to three years in prison and a fine of 375,000 euros.

In the other scandal in his the family, media this month published details of telephone conversations secretly recorded by Liliane Bettencourt's butler, which allegedly revealed she was plotting to evade taxes on her fortune.

That scandal dragged in the French government minister Woerth was accused of a conflict of interest because his wife worked for Bettencourt's estate until he took up ministerial duties in charge of policing tax fraud.

The taped conversations between Bettencourt and her financial adviser allegedly reveal that she hid 80 million euros in Swiss bank accounts while making big donations to friends in the ruling UMP party. AFP

The WORLD

Cito Lorenzo B. Gozo

Qaida agent tied to plot to bomb NYC subways

NEW YORK—US COUNTERTERRORISM OFFICIALS have linked one of the nation's most wanted terrorists to last year's thwarted plot to bomb the New York City subway system, authorities said on Wednesday.

Current and former counterterrorism officials said top al-Qaida operative Adnan Shukrijumah met with one of the would-be suicide bombers in a plot that Attorney General Eric Holder called one of the most dangerous since the 9/11 terror attacks.

Federal prosecutors in Brooklyn have named Shukrijumah in a draft terrorism indictment filed on Wednesday the Justice Department was still discussing whether to cite his role. Some officials feared that the case's sensitive might hinder efforts to capture him.

Shukrijumah's involvement shows how important the subway bombing plot was to al-Qaida's senior leadership, intelligence officials believe Shukrijumah is one of the top candidates to become al-Qaida's next head of external operations, the man in charge of planning attacks worldwide.

Current and former counterterrorism officials discussed the case on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about it.

Shukrijumah, 34, has eluded the Federal Bureau of Investigation for years. The Saudi-born terrorist studied at a community college in Florida, but when the FBI showed up in server him as a material witness to a terrorism case in 2000, he already had left the country. The US is offering a $5-million reward for information leading to his capture.

Intelligence officials began uncovering the subway plot last year, when US intelligence intercepted an e-mail from an account that al-Qaida had used to a terror networks cyber, officials said. The e-mail discussed bomb-making techniques and was sent to an address in Denver, setting off alarms within the CIA and FBI from Islamabad to the US.

SHUKRIJUMAH

Najibullah Zazi and two friends were arrested in September 2009 before, prosecutors said, they could carry out a rate of suicide bombings in Manhattan. Zazi and Zarein Ahmedzay have pleaded guilty and admitted planning to detonate homemade bombs on the subway during rush hour a third time, Aife Mochetjanin, sources cited.

A fourth suspect, a midlevel al-Qaida operative known as Ahmed, washed the e-mails with Zazi, who was frantically trying to perfect his bomb-making recipe, officials said. The US sources to bring the Pakistani man to the US for trial on charges that are not yet public. The CIA learned valuable information about al-Qaida and its operations from Ahmed.

Pakistani officials also have arrested a fifth person, known as Ahtik, who worked with Ahmed, officials said.

The FBI and US attorney's office in Brooklyn had no comment Wednesday.

The meeting with Shukrijumah is among many new details officials told The Associated Press about how the men hooked up with al-Qaida. The new account provides a rare glimpse into al-Qaida's recruiting process.

The men's lengthy odyssey took them from their homes in Queens to the mountainous, lawless border in northwest Pakistan, the front line of the US war on terrorism.

Prosecutors have said the men, motivated by their anger at the US war in Afghanistan, traveled to Peshawar, Pakistan, in the summer of 2008 to fight against US forces. AP

THE DECK of the "A'Whale" skimmer while anchored on the Mississippi River. The ship is the length of 2 1/2 football fields and 15 stories high, and is designed to collect up to 500,000 barrels of oily water a day.

World's largest oil skimmer heads to Gulf oil spill

NEW ORLEANS —With hurricane-whipped waves pushing more oil onto the Gulf of Mexico's once-white beaches, the government on Wednesday pinned its latest cleanup hopes on a huge new piece of equipment: the world's largest oil-skimming vessel.

The Taiwanese-flagged former tanker named the "A Whale" is the length of 2½ football fields and nearly 15 stories high. It has emerged from an extensive retrofitting to prepare it specifically for the Gulf, where officials hope it will be able to suck up as much as 21 million gallons (79.49 million liters) of oil-fouled water per day.

"It is absolutely gigantic. It's unbelievable," said Louisiana State University environmental professor Ed Overton, who saw the ship last week in Norfolk, Virginia.

As the monstrous vessel made its way toward the Gulf Coast, huge waves generated up by the recent Hurricane Alex left Alabama beaches splattered with oil and tar balls the size of apples. The rough seas forced most smaller skimming boats into port for a second consecutive day, putting many cleanup crews on a standstill.

The ship looks like a typical tanker, but it takes in contaminated water through 12 vents on either side of the bow. The oil is then supposed to be separated from the water and transferred to another vessel. The water is then emulsified back into the sea.

But the ship has never been tested, and many questions remain about how it will operate. For instance, the seawater remains knee deposits of oil, even after getting filtered, so the Environmental Protection Agency will have to sign off on allowing the treated water back into the Gulf.

"This is a revolution," Overton said. "You're bringing in really dirty oily water and you're putting back much cleaner water."

The vessel, owned by the Taiwanese shipping firm TMT Group, was complete ed as a tanker via the Suez in 2002 for South Korea. But after the Gulf spill, the company's CEO and founder, Hobo Ho, ordered it changed into a giant skimmer.

The vessel was sent to Portugal for the refit and estimated for the Gulf as soon as it was finished.

The ship arrived on Wednesday in Louisiana coastal waters, where TMT officials planned to meet with the Coast Guard to plan a repeat of the ship.

The Coast Guard will have the final say in whether the vessel can operate in the Gulf. TMT will have to come to operate crews with BP, which is paying for the cleanup. AP

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Alcano, Gabica prevail; Bata stays alive

FORMER DOUBLE WORLD CHAMPION Ronnie Alcano and Antonio Gabica moved closer to the knockout stage even as Efren "Bata" Reyes, Marlon Manalo and Jeff De Luna stayed alive Wednesday in the 2010 WPA World Pool Championship in Doha, Qatar.

Alcano, who ruled this arena in 2006 in Manila, overwhelmed Ahmed Hassan of Iraq, 9-1, to forge a duel with David Alcaide of Spain for a place in the next round.

Gabica, the 2006 Asian Games gold medalist, needed 16 racks to dispose of Nicolas Dikmann of Germany 9-7, and avid sabong watch-cum-underskilled competitor Francisco Bustillo, who advanced Muhammad Zulfikri of India, 9-8.

Keeping their bids alive for the $50,000 champion's purse in the weeklong $200,000 event were Reyes, a 9-7 winner over Germany's Holger Grim in the losers' bracket, and De Luna, who sacred Richard Jones of Great Britain, 9-6.

Manalo, stunned by compatriot Jovan Alba, 8-9, in his first match, kept his poise this time in beating Waleed Majid of Qatar, 9-7, to inch closer to the knockout phase.

Antonio Gabica and Rodolfo Bato joined Alcano and Gabica in the winners' bracket with victories over Corey Deuel of the United States (9-7) and Greta (9-5), respectively.

Alba fell short in his bid to reach the knockout stage sojourners after beating to bow Higgins of Great Britain, 9-4. Alba now has to beat Hong Kong's Kenny Kwok to stay alive.

Filipino bets Francisco Bustamante, Dennis Orcollo, Elmer Mendillo, Raymund Faeldo and Alfaz Casanova and Lee Ian Carrera are also within a victory of claiming spots in the knockout phase, after bowling their opening-day rivals early Wednesday. — GMA7's Ed Bajon

2 PBA playoff games today

SMB-Derby Ace; Bgy. Ginebra-RoS

By Mayong B. Castillo

AFTER SLOWING HOT IN SEPARATE stages of the PBA Fiesta Conference eliminations, sister squads San Miguel and Derby Ace clash again today for the second straight Final Four seat at the Ninoy Aguino Stadium in Manila.

LOOK / TODAY
Alaska Aces vs Barangay Ginebra San Miguel vs Derby Ace

Guinevere is at 7:30 p.m. with San Miguel relying on an ultra-loaded roster that gave the Beermen nine straight wins at one point and Derby Ace boasting on a strong defense that resulted in a six-game winning streak that boosted its cause no end.

Barangay Ginebra and Rain or Shine collide earlier for the last automatic quarterfinal slot, with the Gin Kings eying on their fourth import, Chris Daniels, in the 5 p.m. game.

"Hopefully, he will be our last," Ginebra coach Jong Uichico said of Daniels, a role player they cobbled from the Euro League to take the place of the ineffective Deshawn Brown.

While San Miguel clearly has the better all-around import in Gabriel Freeman, Derby Ace has the best defensive game in the tournament anchored on hard-working Cliff Hodge.

And in a knockout game such as this, James Yap, Derby Ace's superstar gunslinger, is expected to shine despite his recent shaky woes.

"That is what makes James special, his ability to shut out any distractions and play at the highest level," Derby Ace coach Ryan Gregorio told reporters a few nights ago after his Commander reassembled their way past Barako Coffee to tie the Beermen at 13-5.

Derby Ace owns the last collision with the Beermen, 103-92, on the heroics of Yap, who went on to finish with 23 points, including the last two decisive baskets.

Aaron Young, Mickey Ambrey and Brenor Sweet Glenford's troupes prior to Daniels and the Kings and Rain or Shine finished with 9-9 slates as the Elasto Painters closed out the eliminations round with two hard-earned wins sparked by former Ginebra forward Rod Ready as import.

And that will be an added subplot to the game, with Ready, who is averaging 34 points in two games for the Painters, looking to prove that Ginebra was wrong in sending him home after just seven games last season.

Slot Gonzalez is also expected to play a key role as both vets for the Llanderals together with Marc Pingris, Roger Yap and Paul Asi[illegible].

Arwind Santos and Deodon Ronsenada will be San Miguel's main locals, with Alex Cabagnot expected to start at the point and provide the direction the Beermen sometimes lose because of too many stars in their roster.

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MARCEL Puyat joins seventh qualifier

Puyat earns US Junior Amateur golf slot

HERMIE FILIPINO STAR MARCEL Puyat shot a brilliant 3-under par 67 to finish joint second in the 2010 USGA Junior Amateur qualifying and gain a berth in the coveted national proper slated July 19-24 in Michigan.

The 17-year-old Puyat, who ruled the Texas Junior Open last April, rallied on the final phase of the two-day affair, birdieing two holes against two bogeys to clinch one of the three US Junior Am slots reached in the event.

The ICTSI golf scholar had rakes of 33-34 at The Old Fort Golf Club in Mountbrydges, Tennessee, as he tied Chad Hannoy, who fired a 68, for second at 141.

Tennessee's Wesley Gonville topped the qualifier with a 139 after a 72 on a host, boasting log.

After a so-so 74 in the first round, Puyat, nephew of ISP billiards guilla- thor Paulo Puyat, bounced down to work with back-to-back birdies from No. 2. He missed the green on No. 3 and wound up with a bogey but came through with a three-birdie string from No. 8 that added two more on No. 12 and 13.

He three-putted No. 16 from 30 feet, missing a three-foot putt for par.

"We were very tense after he flubbed that shot (on par) because there were still some contenders playing," said ICTSI golf team coach Benj Lopez, who cuddled for Puyat. "We were expecting a playoff but some of the first day leaders struggled and finished with high scores."

This year's USGA Junior Amateur Championship will be played at the Egypt Valley Country Club in Ada, Michigan with Puyat trying to improve on his Last 16 finish last year.

Puyat lost in Japanese Shingo Imahira, 5 and 3, to their duel for a quarterfinal slot.

Magada ties Lascuña for Orchard lead

By Manny R. Castillo

DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE—RENEE MAGADA PICKED UP SHOTS where he left off, shooting a 4-under par 68 yesterday to tie Antonio Lascuña for the lead heading into the final 18 holes of the ICTSI Orchard championship at the Pinoy country host.

Magada, who shot an ace in his opening 69, gunned down six birdies against two bogeys to move in contention for his first title this year and first in two years with a 36-hole 137 total.

Lascuña, the first-round leader with a 66, fell short after a blazing start and needed an eight-foot birdie on the 18th to break par with a 71 and stay on top.

Veteran Cesano Cleto remained within a shot off the pace with a 71 for 138 while brothers Jay and Rufino Bayron, both scoring 72s, stayed in contention at 140.

Mart Pacay and Art Borja were a further stroke back after standing in with 71s but Jovie Pagunsan and fellow Tour big guns Angelo Que and Artemio Murakami seemed out of it.

Pagunsan, the former player going into the worst, rebounded with a 68 after a 74 but was six strokes off the pace 1-02.

Que and Murakami stood nine strokes behind with eight others after a 74 and 75, respectively.

Lascuña appeared poised to break away after shooting a 32 coming out, but he wavered coming home with bogeys on Nos. 13 and 14 and a double bogey 6 on the 16th.

Magada, whose last win came in Malaysia at the expense of the same Lascuña in 2008, picked up four shots in his last seven holes on the front nine before grabbing two more birds on the back.

"I will not change anything and will play the course the best way I can," the 41-year-old Magada told the Inquirer in Filipino. "If I am lucky enough (to win), then I am blessed."

Magada, who used the 289-yard 18th hole with a 4-iron for day before, bogeyed the first hole after missing the fairway and dropped another stroke on No. 3.

The star was pegged at 130 with former Philippine Open champion Robert Herrodotte (71-59) advancing on the dot with veteran Ely Pagunsan (73), Domestic Sanchez (76) and Orlan Dumaual 78.

The low amateur race took an interesting turn with ICTSI Laguna Inc. Air Admin bird-ying the 18th from about 12 feet for a 71 and an even 146, a stroke ahead of stablemate Jessel Alisha, who had a 73 and rose up on Jessie Balsamba, who fired a 75.

First-round leader Peter Villaba, after firing a 69 on Wednesday, bolstered to an 80 and dropped to the out-of 140

Abigail Magada: From first-round co-leader to halfway mark pacesetter

Arum gives Mayweather mid-July to ink fight deal

HALL OF FAME MATCHMAKER BOB Arum won't wait forever for Floyd Mayweather Jr. to sign the fight contract pitching the unbeaten American against Filipino ring icon Manny Pacquiao.

Not according to a report by BoxingScene's Dan Hanno yesterday. Arum, who promotes Pacquiao, is giving Mayweather only until mid-July to seal the megabuck deal projected to earn both boxers at least $40 million each.

Otherwise, Arum and Pacquiao will look for other probable opponents, with Mexican three-time world welterweight champion Antonio Margarito and Puerto Rican Juan Miguel Cotto heading the list.

"There's no actual date of a deadline, but it's sometime in the middle of July" Arum told BoxingScene.com yesterday. "If we haven't gotten this thing locked up and done then we're going ahead and taking another opponent. We're not just going to sit there and throw our thumbs for a fight in November.

Arum is looking at Nov. 13 as the ideal date for Pacquiao-Mayweather, with the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, and Las Vegas as the likely venues.

Another report from ESN said that while Pacquiao-Mayweather is almost a done deal, there are still some points to be tackled like the deliberation and Pacquiao filed against Floyd, Floyd Sr. and his uncle Roger.

Other points of conflicts like the random blood testing protocol and the purse sharing scheme have reportedly been settled, according to other websites.

MisOr eases into finals

By Cedrik F. Tejao

PATRICK CARAMUEL FIRED 18 POINTS as Misamis Oriental whipped Mindanao, 99-66, Wednesday night to claim the first finals berth in the fourth leg of the Tone-National of the Philippines at the Cebu Coliseum.

Caballero, who made nine of 17 shots, spearheaded a balanced offense by the Metcon, who picked up their second straight victory in the tournament organized by the Philippine Basketball League and Liga Filipina.

Sudley Alcoseba, finishing reserved conditioner, broke out of its long slump by thumping 20 for Super Connect, 106-82.

James Sena finished with 18 points to lead all ANI scorers, but it was held since who made the rolling leaders in a 16-8 run that put away the Warriors of losing icon and Surrogate Rep Manny Pacquiao.

It took a big third-quarter surge by the Metcon who pull away from the Cockbusters, who remained in contention behind Caramuel.

Arne finished with 17 points while Ean Sagandoel, Christian Laurezon and Jopher Custodio combined for 22 points for the Cultivators, who snapped a 12-game losing run that included seven during the PBL season last March.

Metcon: Caballero 18, Sumner 17, Blue 16, Lamadrid 10, Tagaan 10, Bueno 10, Galeta 6, Sta.G Pont 2, Tagaan 2, Lamadrid, Bueno 2, Galeta 2, Sumner 0

Misamis Or: Laurezon 19, Lagos 2, Lamas 6, Zamora 7, Obando 4, Clemente 6, Gano 5, Lamas 4, Caramuel 6, Bueno 2, Magbalon 2, Villaver 2, Umali 1, Lamagh

Quarters: 23-16, 38-28, 72-46, 99-66

Harmonious POC-PSC relations near—Peping

By Jose Navarro

PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. kept the identity of the next chair of the Philippine Sports Commission under wraps but declined yesterday that last month's meeting between the sports agency and the POC is now close at hand.

"The priority is to effect immediate change in the relationship of the POC and the PSC," said Cojuangco, who has been at odds with Harry Angping since the former Manila congressman and ruffled president took over as PSC chief 18 months ago.

The rift between the uncle of new President Aquino and Angping came to a head during the 2009 Southeast Asian Games when the country sent two separate national teams to the biennial meet hosted by Laos.

Cojuangco said the President had announced in an earlier interview that he clearly understood that the two highest governing bodies in sports should work hand-in-hand.

"He (Aquino) confirmed also that the PSC should have a good working relationship with the POC," said Cojuangco, uncle of the new President.

"I have an idea as to who would be there (PSC chairmanship) but I don't want to say anything until such time they're appointed," he added.

Being floated as replacement Angping were Former PSC chair Philip Ella Juico, PSC first vice president Manny Lopez, swimming chief Mark Joseph and former senator Robert Jaworski, who reportedly declined to assume the top PSC post.

"We're pushing for the immediate appointment of the new set of commissioners so we could begin at once," said Cojuangco.

"It will not take long for these appointments to come out. It will probably be announced next week. The additional/new post needed more time," he added.

The national bets are preparing for two major events—1st South Olympic Games and the 2010 Asian Games—where the country aims to capture several gold medals.

The SEAG will be held in August in Singapore while Guangzhou, China, plays host to the 16th Asiad on Nov. 12 to 27.

Soccer should try the challenge mode

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Ser Santamaría

SO A BBC COMMENTATOR PUT IT, the "burning issue" in the ongoing World Cup is whether FIFA should finally give in to goal-line technology.

The Brits are clearly hurting from the failure of the referees of the England-Germany game to count Frank Lampard's shot that clearly went over the goal line. The goal would have tied the game at 2-2 and altered the temperament of an already emotional match. England lost, 4-1, but the executioner of that second goal was the more gambol reality to swallow.

FIFA has refused to allow goal-line video cameras or any other technology to decide whether goals are scored or not. Paul Kirtley, writing in Telegraph.co.uk, quoted FIFA president Sepp Blatter as saying that placing such technology would take out the human dimension of officiating. What's more, Blatter said, fans enjoyed talking about the controversies of the game. Fans are indeed talking and rumor Britain why FIFA refuses to step into the techno century.

There's even an explanation that the costs of installing such gizmos would be expensive. Now that's hard to accept. Sports associations that already use technology to help in decision-making have turned to their television coverage teams. If fans watching the game around the world and those inside the arenas are review as players, officials are very well in the same.

There is already considerable expectation to produce the engaging images we have enjoyed over the last two weeks. (subhead) Features on fans, players and teams coupled with exciting slow-mo work have been a staple of the coverage. All FIFA has to do is to look at the replays that its coverage team does so that the officiating errors can be corrected.

In sports where the ball often travels too fast or is too small for the TV camera like tennis, technology like the Hawk Eye has been used. It's not without controversy though but the use of technology in some form acknowledges that anything that will help to improve a sport is most welcome.

There is concern though that soccer, already lengthy by its very nature, would be doused down even further by endless reference to the video replays. Then maybe the use of goal-line technology for goals scored and the offside rule can be used if a limited number of challenges are allowed, similar to the challenge in tennis. Each side can be given two per half. The human element of officiating is still preserved (without technology being the sole judge every time there's a protest on the pitch).

The latest is that Blatter has acknowledged that the controversies in the current World Cup are enough to compel FIFA to reopen discussions on goal-line technology. One can sense that Blatter is attempting to be serious, mediating but at the same time consistent since the tournament has already been played without the use of technology to help officiating.

Majors like the World Cup, regional championships, club competitions and even the Olympics can afford to use even the simplest technology to ensure consistent officiating across. But what about those games played in school and weekend tournaments that don't even have enough money to keep their leagues running?

That's where officiating should be constantly improved so that by the time players do make it to the big time, they already understand when to make a challenge and avoid of goal line technology.

Judson regains WBO crown

FIL-AMERICAN WIN AT ATLANTIC CITY

The World Boxing Organization female super bantamweight title with a split decision victory over Mexican Mares Elena Caballero at "Fury-line at the Bears III" in Ontario, Canada, Wednesday night.

Elevated by Raúl Alfonso Rodríguez Peach, Judson earned the nod of two judges by 96-94 scores and the third judge awarding the fight to Caballero, 97-94. Judson raised her record to 7 wins, 2 losses and a draw.

ROBINHO wonders a lot in practice session

Brazil to miss scorer Elano versus Netherlands

PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA—Advancing as all roads lean home the guiding principle behind the progress of Brazil and Netherlands to the World Cup quarterfinals, regardless of tradition or public perception.

Now that they're about to meet in a match befitting a final, the discussion has turned back to style.

"We know the Netherlands are a very difficult team to play against," Brazil coach Dunga said. "Their football is actually very similar to South American football.

"They don't try to stay defending and rely on long balls," he said. "They have enhanced quality and we will need to be ready for that. It's a solid team."

Three World Cup meetings between the teams have ended with the winner going on to reach the final. That team this year faces either Uruguay or Ghana in the semifinals.

The Dutch have won all their matches so far, but not with the flair that has characterized the teams of previous eras. The two-time finalists have also had to overcome some friction within the squad after the 2-1 win over Slovakia in the round of 16, but coach Bert van Marwijk is confident that's all in the past now.

Five-time champion Brazil was solid in the group stage, beating North Korea and Ivory Coast before a somewhat dour draw with Portugal, but recovered in goalscoring form in a 3-0 win over Chile in the second round.

But the Brazilians will be without Elano, who scored in each of their first two matches, for the quarterfinal. Brazil team director Jose Luis Runco said Elano will not play because of a right ankle injury. Runco said Elano may be fit by next week but did not rule out the possibility that the playmaker could miss the rest of the World Cup.

"I wish I could play to help Brazil, but I know I can't," Elano said. "There are several other players who can play better than I can right now."

His absence might let more motivation to Robinho on rules on extra load. Robinho has admitted that he could have done more to help Brazil at the World Cup.

Despite playing well and scoring his first World Cup goal in the win over Chile on Monday, Robinho said he is still not at his best and wants to improve for the final stages of the tournament in South Africa.

"I'm happy for the goal," he said. "But I think I could've played better. I know I have to play better."

The remarkable value it takes to get through the quarters. He was a member of the Brazilian squad that fell to France in the quarterfinals of the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

But if the Brazilians that followed the Slovakia match is any indication, the Dutch players seem to be climbing over themselves to their cooperation to stay in the tournament.

Van Marwijk demanded unity among his players after Robin van Persie's angry outburst at being substituted.

On Wednesday, Dutch media printed Van Marwijk's cross management skills for preventing any rift for the team.

Previous Dutch campaigns have often been undercut by infighting, but the team has appeared unified in South Africa. But Marwijk insisted he has dealt the latest disputes before it got out of hand. AP

Czech ousts Federer in Wimby shocker

CZECH Republic's Tomas Berdych celebrates after ousting six-time champion Roger Federer of Switzerland. AFP

LONDON—A SPATE OF STUNNERS defended downended even south west London at 3:46 p.m. (10:46 a.m. in Manila) on Wednesday when the unthinkable happened—Roger Federer's remarkable reign at Wimbledon champion was finally over.

When Tomas Berdych punched away a forehand winner to leave the Swiss maestro's record-tying four of reaching (a record) successive Wimbledon final, a chorus of 15,000 gasps could be heard around the All England Club and echoed by millions more around the sporting world.

The 24-year-old Czech's 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 quarterfinal win flexed a dagger into Federer's heart, leaving the six-time champion to contemplate, plate going on holidays as he suffered his earliest defeat at the tournament since 2002.

"It was brutal for me. Every time he had a chance, he took it. If there's anything good about this it's I'm gonna get some rest," continued up Federer, who added he had been troubled by a stiff back and right leg injury.

Before this fortnight, however, it seemed as if even a one-legged Federer could out-hit Swedish further—the threat of this championships.

But after some setup hinting from Berdych finally brought the man who had won 15 of his last 16 Wimbledon matches to his knees, Britain started to dream that this may be the summer when Andy Murray can finally end the 74 year long wait for a homegrown men's champion.

The world number four set pulses racing when he dropped the first set but avoided fluffing his lines with a 6-7, 7-6, 6-2, 6-2 win over Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Next up for him will be Rafael Nadal, the only man to have Federer at the mercy of grass-court tennis since 2003.

The 2008 champion now eager to make his presence felt after overcoming familiar foe, Swiss footballing, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6, 6-1, but there was only one topic people wanted to talk about.

"Roger did amazing the last seven years here, so someday this must happen," continued up Nadal.

With Wimbledon still buzzing over Federer's demise, barely-suppressed Novak Djokovic had already up next into Friday's semifinal as that Venus and Serena Williams' journey of a four-strife of women's doubles fame stalled in the last eight.

Djokovic ended the run of Tsonga's other countryman's semi-Wimbledon, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2, to set up the mid-flicker of semifinal with 11th seed Berdych.

A Wimbledon's final will have the sight of Federer walking out on the second Sunday of the championships for a consecutive. Only 20 days ago but after a week in which he has struggled to stamp his authority new opponents smoked 322 and 60, Berdych was ready to move in for the kill.

The 2030 version of Federer's fourth consecutive final showed the signs who chained Conny Gnat at his second and best and is the penultimate of a fought 35 grand slam title. AFP

LeBron leads free agents; Nets, Knicks interested

NEW YORK—THE NBA'S FREE AGENCY period has opened, with LeBron James leading perhaps the deepest group of players to enter the open market.

Teams could begin making their pitches Thursday, and some were getting started quickly.

Arizona's Joe Johnson was expecting envoys to visit in Los Angeles from the Heat and New York Knicks, with the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reporting that the Hawks were prepared to offer the All-Star shooting guard a maximum salary contract.

Things got interesting later Thursday when the New Jersey Nets and Knicks are scheduled for visits to Ohio to meet with James, the two-time MVP who's made the cities.

It includes other all-stars such as Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh, Dirk Nowitzki, Amare Stoudemire and Carlos Boozer; veterans such as Chauncey Billups, Ray Allen, and young up-and-comers such as Rudy Gay and Gerald Wallace.

"We've never had anything like this in my time that I can remember," New Jersey Nets president Rod Thorn said. "There have been big-time free agents before, but never this many teams that are trying to sign them. So it's unprecedented."

James can get perhaps $125 million over six years by staying in Cleveland, $96 million over five years if he goes.

Meanwhile, former Celtics coach Doc Rivers will return for another season, staying with the team he led to the NBA finals twice in three years for a run at another championship.

"Doc is a fantastic coach and leader and I am thrilled he is coming back for the upcoming season," Celtics co-owner Steve Pagliuca said Wednesday in an e-mail to The Associated Press. AP

SPORTSWATCH

PCC derby stakes P300,000

COCKFIGHTING FROM METRO MANILA

Meanwhile, the Pasay-Cockpit also hosts the "Bakuran 3-cock derby" on July 8 with P200,000 at stake for an entry fee of P6,000. The "PCC 3-Way Derby" on July 9 and "PCC Derby" kicks off on July 13 and 18.

Call Cherilee at 843-880, 843-1746 and 887-580-7900 for reservation of cockfighters.

Ely Cabarles darts tourney

DART PLAYERS WILL BE PERMANENTLY

Meanwhile, Bayo Dartsmore and Home Warmore open the P6,000 Tri-Star Darts Tournament organized by Mel Gutierrez and Tito Mendoza.

Shell chess goes to Cagayan

TWO EXPERIENCED CITY SHELL MASTERS

Meanwhile, Bayo Dartsmore and Home Warmore open the P6,000 Tri-Star Darts Tournament organized by Mel Gutierrez and Tito Mendoza.

Seeded duos crush Jeson, Casey's bids

IT'S ALL OVER FOR FILIPINO juniors Francis Casey Alcantara and Jeson Patrombon in the Wimbledon Wednesday.

Playing with separate partners in the boys' doubles, the two bowed out in their opening matches to seeded teams in the All England tennis championships.

Alcantara and Brian Oliver Golding were eliminated by third-seeded American Brenda Kadla and Raymond Sarmiento, 6-3, 6-0.

Patrombon and Jeremy Ahmed Tithi got the best from second seeds Ivan Dimitrov of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Mate Pavic of Croatia, 6-3, 6-2.

Teammates in a Filipino-American who partnered with Alcantara in winning the Philcatholic Lancer Junior doubles title early this year.

The twin defeats ended the Filipinos' six-week campaigns in Europe which saw Patrombon improve his world rankings from 378 to 370.

Alcantara, meanwhile, made the semifinals of the pre-Prime Motion Angeles International boys' doubles in tandem with Golding.

Alcantara made the second round of the boys' singles in Wimbledon. He ousted French Gregoire Barrere, 6-1, 1-6, 11-9, on Monday.

In the second round on Tuesday, he fell to Argentinian Facundo Arguello, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Patrombon absorbed a 6-1, 7-5 beating from American Mitchell Frank in the first round.

Both are expected to see action in the first set of Davis Rivera, the US Open, in Septem ber. Marc Anthony Reyes

34th Milo Marathon goal: 4,000 pairs of shoes

THE 34TH NATIONAL MILO MARATHON kicks off on Sunday at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila with a new goal: some 4,000 pairs of shoes for public school students who excel in both sports and academics.

The inspiration comes from previous Milo Marathon events where a number of homeless children joined the races. Milo Sports Events executive Pat Gaccong said they are committed to help more children realize their potential.

"We recognize the importance of developing one's talents and we wish to give these kids an opportunity to shine and achieve something for themselves," said Gaccong, who said 0% per registration fee will be allocated for the campaign.

The school's guidance counselor, principal and physical education teacher will determine the recipients.

Consuelo has failed topped his distinguished career last year while Chelsealot Montes ruled the faceoff side.

This year, there will be two ways to qualify to the national finals for 21K elimination legs: meet the 1:31:00 (male) and 1:39:00 (female) cutoff time or finish the specified time for every age bracket.

For the 42K Metro Manila elimination leg, all runners who will meet the cutoff time for their age bracket will get national finals slots.

The annual footrace is also providing for the first time timing chips for 10K, 21K and 42K participants. Over 9K stallions in total cash prizes will be given away with the Milo Marathon King and Queen bagging P200,000 each.

The 34th National Milo Marathon will have 17 elimination races nationwide. After Sunday's Metro Manila opener, succeeding stops are slated in Dagupan (July 11), Baguio (July 18), Regional Juniors Cebu (July 25), Davao (Aug. 29), Cebu (Sept. 5), Tagbilaran (Sept. 12) and Dumaguete (Sept. 19). Jhunlae S. Acuavila

HEWARD of the Mahiang Tigers poses with supporters after wrapping up their stint in the Gaisano Philippines Friendship Basketball set at the Sinagpura Basketball Field in Davao. The 10-and-under team coached by Hon Espiro split their four matches.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE
@ SHELLSPORTS.PH

Race 1—(Pole to Win)—My Cup of Tea (6), Princess Kianna (2), My Pretty (8), Black Gold (3), Playmaker (1)

Race 2—(Quiet to Win)—Big Bang (5), Action Guitar (7), Alec Mac (9), Johnny Boiler (8), Bohemian Dawn (3), Love Story (1)

Race 3—(Quiet to Win)—Another (4), Seven Lucks (2), Invictus (1), My Shadow (5)

Race 4—(Pole to Win)—My Friend Lawrence (1), The Surgeon (3), Blue Eyes (2)

Race 5—(Quiet to Win)—Holy Moly (6), Lucky Find (2), Miracle City (1), Chrysalis (4)

Race 6—(Pole to Win)—My Friend Lawrence (1), The Surgeon (3), Blue Eyes (2)

Race 7—(Quiet to Win)—Golden Song (2),

SPORTS

Smart Gilas-Pilipinas braces for tough Jones Cup stint

By Jove Navarro

WITH A MIXED REPORT AND A LINEUP free of injuries, Smart Gilas-Pilipinas now has the ingredients to come up with a terrific show in the William Jones Cup.

But Smart Gilas coach Rajko Toroman reminded cautious as the Serbian mentor expects tough sailing for the national team in Chinese Taipei's premier hoop tournament.

"It will really be a big challenge for our team," said Toroman after Smart Gilas returned to practice yesterday at The arena in San Juan to prepare for the July 23 to 31 summit meet.

The PBA free took a three-day rest after capturing the 2010 Smart Philippine Invitational Challenge crown at the expense of the Jordan-national team on Sunday at the Mines Aquino Stadium.

Toroman said host-would field twin national squad, which won the 2007 and 2009 Fiba Asia Championship, instead of its usual B.

Aside from winning the Asian champs, another landmark for the Iranian team, which joined Sri Malaysia, also successfully defended its Fiba Asia Champions Cup title in Doha, Qatar in May.

Except for the 7-foot-2 Hamed Haddadi, Toroman said the Iranians will go full blast in the Jones Cup with skipper Mahdi Kamrani, the high-scoring Mahdi Armoli, Behnam and Hamed Haqi taking the lead.

Haddadi earlier announced that he would miss the championships Asian Games in November and other tournaments leading to the debut after the reigning Pba Asia MVP decided to join the Memphis Grizzlies in the NBA pre-season camp.

Toroman said the national squad of Lebanon, Korea, Japan and host Chinese Taipei would also give Smart Gilas a tough time.

"It's difficult to assess our chances. The Fiba is strong. We'll see where we get there," said Toroman.

Stags, Lions seek 2nd straight wins

CALVIN Abueva: MVP star

By Cedelf P. Topas

UNDEFEATED IN ITS DEBUT San Sebastian is expected to come out with an improved form when the defending champion Stags tangle with Perpetual Help in the 86th NCAA men's basketball tournament at the PhSA in San Juan.

The Stags, who needed a strong double to stave back a pesky Letran squad, 58-53, last Saturday, are favored to grab their second victory in the 2 p.m. duel with the Altas, who dropped their first game against Mapua last Monday.

San Sebastian coach Aric Aguilla expects a better performance from his Stags, who had 24 turnovers against the Knights.

"We have to take care of the ball," said Aguilla, who is set to have the Stags after the tournament and take over the coaching reins in San Miguel in the PBA. "We can't expect to commit 24 turnovers every game and still win."

Jun Reyes, spare Upeco's challenge San Sebastian this year, she can be in second victory against Benilde Agustin de College at 4 p.m.

The Red Lions commanded the Jose Rizal U Heavy Bombers, 66-52, last Saturday, but San Beda coach Frankie Lim still expects more from his team.

"I think we still have a lot to show in the tournament," said Lim, who guided the Lions to titles in 2007 and 2008.

Lim is not taking the JRU Tigers lightly, especially since the Growls are coming off a two-in-a-row.

"We cannot be overconfident," said Lim. "They just came from a win and might just bounce back hard. We have to sealed their top performers by limiting their touches."

That means Angel Mendoza, Russel Escoto and Claude Cabe will be the focus of the Lions' defense.

Jerry Lozano and Sergio Hernick, who contributed for 33 points in the victory over the Bombers, are expected to spearhead the Lions.

The Wimbledon Championships. In a class of its own.

ROLEX

SKYCABLE

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Atlas targets $200M in copper sales, eyes hydro plant in Cebu /B8

Editor Raoul D. Pascual • Assistant Editor Carmie S. Mariano
BUSINESS
1st of 2

Wagas INASAL UNLIMITED RICE!

Global concerns drag down RP shares

By Doris C. Dumlao

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY took a hit from global uncertainties, triggered by weaker-than-expected rise in US private payrolls and the stream of bad news that continued to roll out of Europe.

Despite inauguration cheer, traders are reminded all is not well abroad

Despite the local market's enthusiasm over the inauguration of President Aquino the other day, the main index Philippine Stock Exchange Inc. still shed 57.46 points or 2.7 percent to close at 2,115.26.

Also, the peso and South Korea's won yesterday led in the decline of Asian currencies as investors shed risky assets after readers from reports of Chinese data fueled concerns over the pace of global recovery.

The peso closed at 46.49 to the dollar yesterday. It touched 46.65 against the greenback in intra-day trades—the lowest in three weeks—as investors dumped local stocks in part of a wider risk reduction due to concerns about the global economy.

Latest sources were fueled by China's data, which showed its rapid growth is moderating.

"The peso is pretty much following the global risk-off mood," said a currency trader.

(CONTINUED ON B2)

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
July 1, 2010
46.49

STOCK MARKET
July 1, 2010
57.45

ADB to establish small wind power systems in villages

By Amy R. Remo

MORE RURAL AREAS MAY GAIN access to energy once Asian Development Bank completes the installation of small wind power systems in the Philippines and two other pilot countries in Southeast Asia.

Small wind power projects are deemed to be a sustainable solution for remote and dispersed markets. The project can reduce a country's dependence on oil imports and stand on fuel price risks, said Arun Acharya, ADB climate change specialist.

Over 3,000 villages in the Philippines, Nepal and Mongolia will benefit from the project, Acharya added during his presentation at the recently concluded China Energy Forum.

What increases are widely available throughout the world and have been successfully used to generate power in developed countries.

But poor rural communities cannot afford the upway investment and do not have adequate access to financing. About $4,000 is needed to produce a kilowatt of power from wind resources, Acharya said.

As such, ADB has put up a "small wind working group" that will identify villages where small wind systems will be installed, facilitate technology transfer and school financing.

ADB will provide $3.97 million in technical assistance.

'Search for the Toughest Jobs in the RP' launched by DOLE, Pacquaio and Alaxan FR

DOLE AND THE PEOPLES CHAMP together with Go pain relief brand Alaxan FR launches the "Search for the Toughest Jobs in the Philippines" - a pesoalbi-wide initiative that seeks to honor Filipino men and women who face the challenges of their day-to-day jobs with pride, resiliency and need of all employers.

"In the case of Manny Pacquiao, it's the pain of training for a boxing title for the personalities, it's the long sequence to be able to give service to grocery shoppers for the teacher, it's the long evenings after long hours of standing to be able to impart knowledge to students. Really, pain is a badge of honor. It's one sign that you've exerted enough effort and commitment to do your job well," said Ms. Sheila Ross, Alaxan brand representative.

The "Search for the Toughest Jobs in the Philippines" is open to all working Filipinos and will run from May 26 to Aug. 21. Each participant must log on to www.toughjob.alaxanpainrelief.com, register and upload a picture explaining why they have the toughest jobs. The entry who got the most number of votes online will win the competition and will bring home a trophy and a cash prize.

For the other, DOLE is also rewarding to full support to the project, tapping key organizations under it such as the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) and the Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC). "The labor sector acquires enhanced support from the DOLE and all other services and it is in the spirit of partnership between the private and public sector that will create solutions and opportunities for human capability and development," under Undersecretary Benedicto Bitonio, Chairman Board of Labor Secretaries.

Manny Pacquiao, serves as the epicenter of the strength and resilience of the Filipino workingman. Being a true champion, he takes pride in struggle of hours as a sign that he has completed 1 day's worth of rigorous training, a sign that he's a step closer to winning another championship belt. Incumbent Welterweight Champion, "Ano ba, galing ka." These traits in Manny Pacquiao are what prompted Alaxan FR to partner them with the "People's Champ."

The idea of pain even as a badge of honor is seen in the "Search for the Toughest Jobs in the Philippines." Supported by the shortlisted applicants of the Search Finalists, the DOLE, Manny Pacquiao and Alaxan FR - it is hoped that this contest will go a long way in celebrating the Filipinos' resilience, strength and toughness.

Alaxan FR contains Ibuprofen (200mg) and Paracetamol (325mg), two of the most widely used pain relief tools by doctors the worldwide. It is used for the relief of mild to moderately severe pain of musculoskeletal origin such as myalgia, arthritis, rheumatism, sprain, strain, bursitis, tendonitis, backache and stiff neck, as well as tension headache, dysmenorrhea, toothache and minor surgical operations and for the reduction of fever. Alaxan FR is available at leading drugstores and supermarkets.

The retailer's answer to increased efficiency

THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT SUCCESS IN the retail industry depends on how well the business is managed. To keep up with the competition, businessmen need proper tools of the trade to make their businesses more efficient.

The best place to start would be with your point-of-sale (POS) system. With the advent of computer systems and the Internet, POS systems have evolved from mere cash registers to sophisticated tools that give retailers essential sales and inventory reports. For businessmen who run multiple store branches, it is ideal for data to be as accessible as possible, without having to spend to much time traveling from one branch to another.

Alliance Software Inc introduces Alliance WebPOS, an Internet-based POS system that makes it possible for retailers to retrieve data from any web-enabled device at any time of the day. This is made possible through the use of cloud computing, a recent trend in Information Technology, that places the actual business application and data on a server Internet server. Because of this, actual maintenance of POS software becomes minimal and manageable. All you need is a web browser and the WebPOS is ready for use. From a branch's point of view, this means no more additional costs in processing to store servers and servicing software licenses.

"It's a revolution in retail efficiency and management," says Robert Ching, president of Alliance Software. "With the WebPOS, retailers can be more on vacation but can still store sales, expenses, inventory pricing, and receive their business levels as long as they have their laptops with them and wi-fi connection is available. They can even access the application from their smartphones."

In an industry where competition is fierce, it is important that your store stands out from the crowd. With the level of accessibility that Alliance WebPOS provides, you are guaranteed that you get instant data. With just a few clicks, you are ready to make the best business decisions possible.

For more information about Alliance WebPOS, visit http://www.alliance.com.ph or call 687-8099 (Manila) or 340-4084 (Cebu).

Veco raises the bar of customer service with ECPay

AIMS TO TRAIN GARGANTUAN DISTRIBUTION operations across their franchise area, electric distribution utilities' responsibility does not end with merely providing consumers with power supply to their clients. For Visayan Electric Company Inc (Veco) - the largest private electric utility in Southern Philippines, it comes with continued innovation on the "customer service solutions" front.

"One of the most tangible improvements we have set in this front is the improvement on our bill-paying services," said Ricardo Lacson Jr., Veco vice president for customer service and administration. "In addition to our own, expanding payment options, we have tapped Electronic Commerce Payments Inc (ECPay) as our alternative collection partner."

ECPay is the leading electronic payment system provider in the country today. Established in 2001, its multi-platform payment infrastructure operates in a secure service-oriented architecture and a payments data center for bills payments, as well as prepaid products, e-wallets, fund transfers and domestic remittances. It operates on a 24/7 basis via its main hub certified at the BSI Center Eastwood City Cyberpark in Libis, Quezon City.

With its widest reach in terms of commercial centers nationwide, ECPay indeed helps Veco (and by intrinsic its customers) streamline their collection efficiency. The collection partnership eventually enables the electric distributor jointly owned by the Alsons Power Corp. and Vivant Corp. to better serve its 368,000 subscribers within its franchise area covering the cities of Cebu, Talisay, Naga and Toledo as well as the four municipalities of Consolacion, Liloan, Minglanilla, and San Fernando.

Through their partnership, ECPay secures full, point-of-sale payments from Veco customers. Also, the new mode of payment facility apart from Veco's two Full Service Centers in SM City and Tabunan as well as its six other collection offices and partners Banco de Oro cash payments for overdue bills.

"So now, they can enjoy a free, reliable, convenient and hassle-free bills payment through ECPay, which they've never experienced somewhere else," Lacson finished.

19 Pinoy schools to compete in int'l business contest

STUDENTS FROM 19 PHILIPPINE COLleges and universities will be going head to head in the newly-revamped JCI Students as Free Enterprise (JSIE) National Competition, an entrepreneurship contest, to be held in Makati this July.

The JSIE contest requires participant students, with the help of a faculty advisor, to implement a variety of outreach programs in their local communities. The contest aims to give economic opportunities for others by helping them learn about market economics, success skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, environmental sustainability and business ethics. Teams are given at least 6 months to implement their projects and make a positive impact on the country chosen community. To ensure that their projects are sustainable, the teams can enlist the help of local or national companies and partner organizations operating in their area. Students will then present the outcomes of their projects before a panel of judges, composed of business and government leaders, on July 3 (Saturday) at the Bank Trust Room Ballroom.

Rogelio Bonifacio Gerodias and Chairman of the Monetary Board, Amando M. Tetangco, will deliver the keynote address at the start of the competition. Valenzuela City Councilor Sherlan Jubelado will be the main guest speaker during the Awarding Ceremonies after the competition.

The winning college in each country slated to have the best project will advance to the Elite World Cup in Los Angeles, California scheduled on Oct. 10 to 12 this year. The winning team will compete with Elite teams from over 40 countries.

"Students learn business skills and values, while partner companies can source their corporate social responsibility programs through the SIFE teams," said Filipinas Subchair Jose Emmanuel Jr. "The fifty projects undertaken in the last business month from participating colleges in our core environmental thrust to SIFE's corporate partners. It's strategic and public service at its best," Lacson said.

Participating in the Philippine World Colleges Campus, Lyceum, Northwestern University, Holy Trinity College, Bulacan State University, Silliman University (Dumaguete), Ateneo de Davao University, Mapua Institute of Technology, Far Eastern University, Technological University of the Philippines, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Valenzuela, Jose Rizal University and De La Salle University - Dasmariñas.

Admission for the Philippine World Colleges Campus, Lyceum, Northwestern University, Holy Trinity College, Bulacan State University, Silliman University (Dumaguete), Ateneo de Davao University, Mapua Institute of Technology, Far Eastern University, Technological University of the Philippines, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Valenzuela, Jose Rizal University and De La Salle University - Dasmariñas.

JOB

PSE names new director

By Dorothy C. Dantes

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has appointed a new director to fill the vacant seat left by Robert Vergara, who represents state-owned pension fund Government Service Insurance System, which is the biggest shareholder of the local market.

In a disclosure yesterday, the PSE board announced the appointment of GSIS senior vice president for asset management, Lorenzo Jose Lallana, as a non-broker director of Series Sec22.

Lallana is employed GSIS chief legal counsel Teofilo Blanquera as non-broker director.

A former nominee of dedicated foreign stock brokerage RSBC Securities Philippines, Lallana is one of the investment experts in study tasked by the state-owned GSIS to boost its fund management portfolio.

He was a welfare-operated stock market veteran who left the business when RSBC closed its local stock brokerage business in the early 2000s.

Changers, meanwhile, was nominated by the SSS to the PSE board following the resignation of the pension fund's then senior vice president for Finance, Onofre Tangco.

Changers said in her resignation letter that she was more than willing to continue her board to matters previously assigned to her, such as the negotiations with Ayala Land Inc. on the purchase of the latter's 20 Port Bonifacio Global City as well as proposed investments in the Securities Regulation Code.

In 2003, the PSE demutualized to convert from a non-stock house owned by member brokers into a stock corporation owned by shareholders.

Under the law, the majority of its 15-member board must be occupied by non-broker directors.

Meanwhile, the PSE board has also approved the change in the principal office of the stock exchange, from the Tektite Towers in Ortigas Center to PSE Plaza, Ayala Triangle in Makati, effective yesterday.

Also, the PSE has yet to name a new president to take over the post vacated by lawyer Francis Lim in mid-February.

JOB

Alliance Tuna sees hefty profit growth in '10

Firm diversifies, changes name

By Doris C. Dumlao

ALLIANCE TUNA INTERNATIONAL INC. (ATI) aims to register a much higher profit this year compared to 2009 on the back of relative diversified revenue streams and added by its expansion into Indonesia and Vietnam.

During the stockholders meeting yesterday, shareholders have approved a change in the company's name to "Alliance Select Foods International Inc.," which will still be subject to the final approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The name change is in line with the company's diversification to new products.

"It (profit) will be better than last year, especially if Vietnam comes into the fold," Alliance Tuna president Jonathan Dee said during the meeting.

Revenue turnover is seen hit about $1.61 million this year, up from about $918.99 million in 2009, with the expected consolidation of the Vietnam business.

In 2009, the company posted $1.97 million in profit attributable to equity holders of parent. Alliance Tuna, which aspires to evolve into a regional food company with a "decidedly Filipino DNA," has committed to buy 51 percent plus one of Vietnamese firm Hiep Binh, which is into beef-roll, sterrolled farming of pangasius or dory fish. The acquisition is worth about $1.6 million.

The takeover of the Vietnamese company, which produces 200 metric tons of pangasius a day and sells some 900 metric tons of rice per day, will dramatically change the company's revenue distribution.

Dee said canned tuna would have account for only 34 percent of the company revenues while pangasius would contribute 32 percent. Rice will have 15 percent share while fish meal and salmon will have 8.5 percent and 4.5 percent, respectively.

Previously, canned tuna accounted for about 86 percent of Alliance Tuna's sales while fish meal contributed 7 percent. The balance of 7 percent was from its New Zealand-based salmon subsidiary.

The new business in Vietnam, Dee said, would be operated together with the company's local partners.

"We'll expand their market for them. Their market is quite young so they will take on our marketing team already and we'll sell more products," Dee said.

"If they grow well, we'll keep growing through acquisitions," Dee added, noting that the company had already completed its expansion into Indonesia.

Dee said Alliance Tuna had breached the global shortlist by diversifying its export markets.

"We now export to 40 countries and we keep adding new markets," he said.

Alliance Tuna International Inc. also earlier backed up its stake in overseas unit PT International Alliance Foods Indonesia (PIAF) to 80.08 percent from 79.92 percent.

PIAF was organized by Alliance Tuna in 2008 to acquire the assets of a tuna cannery located in Bitung, North Sulawesi.

Global concerns . . .

From page B1

in the stock market, the mining-oil, property and financial sectors were the worst hit, falling by 3 percent, 2.7 percent and 2.1 percent, respectively.

There were four declliners to every single gainer, four total traders were still relatively thinly about 93 billion.

Among the stocks heavily sold were those of Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., SM Investments Corp., Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Ayala Power Corp., Universal Robina Corp., Ayala Land Inc., DMCI Holdings Inc. and Alliance Global Group Inc.

Manila Equity Research Inc. was among the few that bucked the trend.

Sluggish local stock trading was influenced by the gloom on Wall Street. The closely watched Dow Jones Industrial Index was down by 96.28 points or nearly 1 percent on Wednesday.

Global risk taking was tempered by a report on private US payrolls, which increased at a much slower pace than what the market had anticipated.

Investors were again reminded of the European fiscal crisis as global credit watchdog Moody Investor Service placed Spain's debt on review for downgrade. Rating firms Fitch and S&P had already downgraded Spain's sovereign credit. With a report from Reuters

Employment of accountants

FOR PRACTICAL REASONS, THE CORporation is the preferred choice in our country as the mechanism to engage in business.

Unless the law requires a different amount, the minimum paid-up capital that incorporators are obliged to raise to get their certificate of registration is P5,000.

Considering the present cost of living, that amount is ridiculously low, but that's what the Corporation Code (which was enacted in 1980) says.

In terms of liability, if the corporation goes belly up, the creditors can run after its stockholders only to the extent of their stock subscription.

Our SEC, which should be filled within 30 days from the annual stockholders' meeting, among others, the names, addresses and shareholdings of the officers and major stockholders.

The AFS, on the other hand, summarizes the financial conditions...e.g., income, profits and losses—of the company during the past year.

Its filing date depends on its fiscal year (the SEC allows it to file) and the last number of its registration number.

fied public accountant, whether an individual or partnership of accountants.

There is a mandatory rotation by some corporations, particularly, those that are small or medium scale, that is, under the rule, AFS to be valid, or considered in compliance with regulatory requirements, they have to be signed by auditors accredited by the SEC.

Although it is said for all AFS to be signed by SEC-accredited auditors (as the winnowing process overthrows to the extinction of the capabilities of CPAs), the accreditation requirement applies only to companies audited with public accountants.

If a corporation does not meet fiscal criteria (which shall be discussed later), any accredited may sign its AFS as long as that person is registered with the Board of Accountancy.

Categories

The board, which is under the supervision and administrative control of the Professional Regulations Commission, supervises the registration, licensure and practice of accountancy in the Philippines.

It can, after compliance with certain procedures, suspend or revoke the license of accountants.

As long as the CPR, who signs the AFS is registered with and is in good standing with the board, the AFS will be accepted at its face value by the SEC.

In case the AFS is, however, later found to be deficient or does not conform to applicable accounting rules and standards, the company and auditor concerned may be invited for proper fines and penalties.

The requirement on accreditation of auditor applies to the AFS submitted by corporations that, in general, solicit funds from the public or whose securities are traded in a stock exchange.

Also included are public companies or companies with total assets of at least 150 million and have a minimum of 200 stockholders who own at least 100 shares each.

The minimum of capitalization and number of stockholders owning 100 shares each must both be present to qualify for that status.

Standards

The companies that form Group "B" are pre-need companies, investment houses, brokers and dealers of securities, investment companies, dealers of government securities, and universal banks that underwrite securities.

Also in this list are investment companies subject, deeding agencies, issuers of registered time shares, proprietary and non-proprietary membership certificates, stock and securities exchanges; and registered projected purpose websites.

In Group "C" are financing and leasing companies, and transfer agents.

Rounding up the categories is Group "D" which refers to corporations required by other regulatory agencies, such as, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, to have their external auditors accredited by the SEC.

The accreditation standards applied for the different categories mentioned vary depending on the nature of the activities of the covered companies and the extent of their financial interaction with the public.

If the accreditation is granted, it shall be valid for three years, unless earlier withdrawn or suspended by the SEC in the event that, after due process, the auditor is found to have committed errors acts that, under accounting standards, penalty, disciplinary action.

For feedback, please write to qualster.ca@inquirer.com.ph.

SALE
PVC SHEET / EXPANSION SHIELD
- PVC Sheets, Welding Electrodes
- RAWLSET, CMARK, Drive Pins, Dyna Bolt Eye Pin
- Asbestos Gasket Sheets, Klinger, Teadit
- Stainless Steel Flexitallic, Ring Gasket
- Gypsum Paper Tape
- Snapping Machine, Sealer
- Vinyl Tile Cutter
- Self Drilling Head In Expansion Shield
- TOZEN Rubber connector
50 ARMSTRONG CONSTRUCTION CENTER

PRULINK	PRU LIFE UK
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Funds	June 30, 2010 / June 23, 2010
Bond Fund - Peso	1.32191 / 1.32191
Managed Fund - Peso	2.12681 / 2.12681
Growth Fund - Peso	1.58479 / 1.58514
Equity Fund - Peso	0.97195 / 0.98019
Bond Fund - US$	1.01568 / 1.01568
Managed Fund - US$	1.11668 / 1.11668
Growth Fund - US$	1.19800 / 1.19800
Equity Fund - US$	1.10000 / 1.10000
Dynamic Fund - Peso	1.00000 / 1.00000
Money Market Fund - Peso	1.00000 / 1.00000

New Accounting Firm Launched in the Philippines

PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
PICPA Building, 700 Shaw Boulevard
Mandaluyong City

NOTICE OF MEETING
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

To ALL PICPA Members:

In accordance with the provisions of Article XIII, Section 1 and 3 of the By-Laws of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, notice is hereby given that the Annual Membership Meeting will be on Friday, July 23, 2010 at 1:00 pm at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City.

AGENDA
1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Publication of Notice of Meeting
3. Certification as to Presence of Quorum
4. Reading and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
6. Report of the President
7. Report of the Treasurer
8. New Business
9. Determination of the place of the next annual meeting
10. Adjournment

We urge all members to attend the Annual Membership Meeting. For members who cannot be present in person, please accomplish and return to us the general proxy form. The general proxy for can be downloaded from the PICPA website www.picpa.com.ph or can be obtained from the PICPA National and Chapter Offices.

DIOSDADO M. VILLETA
National Secretary

External Counterpulsation System
A non-invasive outpatient treatment option for cardiac patients
What is ECP?

BSP policy spurs banks to reduce lending rates

By Bussel W. Dumlao

BANKS' LENDING RATES HAVE gone down by about 2.22 percentage points as of mid-May, reflecting the 2-point cumulative reduction in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' overnight lending rate.

Data from the BSP's Monetary Board (MB) showed that the key policy rate had been reduced by 200 basis points to 4 percent since December 2008.

The BSP move is meant to allow borrowers greater access to funds which may, in turn, execute economic activities at a time of global financial backup.

Banks have passed on the BSP rate reduction to their borrowers, resulting in the decline of lending rates by 22.8 basis points as of the second week of May.

Borrowers enjoy greater access to funds as key rates remain low

The move is pass-through equivalent of 1.09.8 percent, according to the BSP.

In a study on the Philippine economy released earlier, BSP Bank said monetary authorities would have to keep interest rates low for as long as it could to help the government manage debt costs.

The Singapore-based bank said investors seen on government securities would take comfort low even if the economy were to grow faster this year.

Economic managers have raised their economic expectations for the year. Given may range between 5 percent and 6 percent in 2010, they said.

Previously, the government had set growth at 2.4 to 3.4 percent.

The change was mainly due to the stronger-than-expected growth of 7.2 percent recorded in the first quarter.

Also, DBS said the Bureau of Treasury could keep rates low, and that the market would be amenable to the decision.

During the policy rate meeting held last month, the MB decided to maintain key rates at historic lows in wind-off external threats to the economy and sustain robust expansion seen in the first quarter.

Aside from the overnight lending rate, which the BSP charges banks for overnight loans, the overnight borrowing rate was kept at 4 percent, which the BSP pays banks for overnight deposits.

While the economy's first-quarter performance had raised concerns of accelerated inflation, which could threaten to push up interest rates, the BSP said it would wait for further developments in the domestic and external environments before it could consider raising rates.

The BSP agrees that the economy may rebound this year, but it still believes that strong interest rates are not safe the fragile economy.

TETANGCO

Private water firms replace top executives

By Rita T. Olchondra

PRIVATE CONCESSIONAIRES MANILA Water Company Inc. and Mayniland Water Services Inc. are undergoing transition after the two firms lost their top officials to the Cabinet of President Aquino.

In separate disclosures with the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), Manila Water and Mayniland respectively announced the resignations of their top executives Jose Ernie B. Almendras and Rogelio L. Singson.

Almendras, former chief executive officer (CEO) and president of Ayala-led Manila Water, is the new secretary of the Department of Energy.

"Almendras resigned from the company to be able to respond to the call of government service and will join the Cabinet. The company is grateful for his invaluable leadership and service," Manila Water said.

ALMENDRAS

Gerardo C. Ablaza Jr., former CEO of Globe Telecom Inc., takes over as president and CEO of Manila Water.

Singson, former president and CEO of Mayniland, is taking over the helm of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

In a phone interview, Singson said that he expects a "smooth continuation" of Mayniland's programs.

Herbert M. Consing, Mayniland's chief operating officer, will act as officer-in-charge of the water concessionaire "until a permanent replacement has been identified by the board of directors."

Consing is also chief finance officer of Mayniland's parent firm, DMCI Holdings Inc.

"The top executives will work with Mayniland to find [ways] to make sure we [will] meet the commitments, so I don't see much [problems]," Consing said. "I am confident that our programs to further improve efficiency and service quality will continue."

SINGSON

Mayniland, in a statement, said that "Singson has been instrumental in Mayniland's foundation and we are sincerely grateful for everything that he has done for the company."

Mayniland also assured customers and other stakeholders that the "change in Mayniland's leadership will in no way affect our publicly stated commitment to deliver safe, reliable and affordable water to the people in the West Zone."

Mayniland has steadily reduced its non-revenue water (NRW) level to 33 percent as of June 1, 2010, from 63 percent in 2007.

The steel-lean concessionaire also shaved the significant reduction to the company's NRW level to its use of state-of-the-art leak detection equipment and enhanced leak-repair program.

Mayniland also said it would proceed with its aggressive NRW reduction program by allocating P1.1 billion this year for its NRW diagnostics, active leak repairs and district metered area establishment and maintenance.

By 2011, the company is targeting to bring down its NRW level to 40 percent.

For every 1 percent reduction, the utility saves more than 6 million gallons of water a day, which can be allocated to areas that are in need of additional supply.

BUSINESS

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PNOC-EC in talks with potential foreign partners

By Amy R. Remo

PNOC-EXPLORATION CORP. IS NEGOTIATING with a number of prospective foreign companies to provide the focus in operations for its offshore Mindoro and East Sabina blocks.

For the offshore Mindoro block under Service Contract 47, PNOC-EC is in talks with "three to four foreign firms," said company vice president Leonardo Orteza.

Orteza said the company was still negotiating the level of participation that the foreign firms would take up in the service contract for the offshore Mindoro block.

PNOC-EC, the upstream oil and coal arm of state-run Philippine National Oil Co., was granted the service contract in July 2005.

Its former partner, Petronas Carigali Overseas Sdn Bhd of Malaysia, relinquished its interest in the service contract in January 2008 due to the unfavorable results of the Manalo 1 well, which was drilled in 2007.

This left PNOC-EC with a 97-percent participating interest, while listed firm PHILODrilling Resources Corp. and Black Energy Corp. have 2-percent and 1-percent participating interests, respectively.

SC-2009, PNOC-EC acquired more than 1,000 LB-meters of 2D seismic data and completed a power well evaluation of the Manalo-1 exploration well.

In the meantime, Orteza confirmed that the company also wanted to farm out its interest in SC 63 or the East Sabina block and is currently negotiating a separate set of potential foreign investors.

Orteza said negotiations on the terms of the deal were still ongoing, particularly on who would become the operator.

SC 63 covers 10,000 square kilometers in offshore southwest Palawan. PNOC-EC holds a 70-percent stake and is the operator of the block, while Australian firm Melo Petroleum Ltd. owns the remaining 30 percent.

The firm earlier said seismic interpretations showed several prospects and leads that were successful in both offshore northwest Palawan and Sulu.

PNOC-EC also holds interests in SC-58 in the Mindoro-Cuyo project in offshore Palawan; SC 57 in the Cagayan basin; SC 40 within the Bagay gulf and onshore Bondoc Peninsula; SC-57 in the Calamian Islands; SC 58 in the West Columbia offshore northwest Palawan; and SC-59 in Abra Basin.

To this end, PNOC-EC earmarked P6.2 billion to further intensify the exploration and development of prospective petroleum and coal resources covered by its service contracts.

"To narrate, the Philippines' growing economy, our search for indigenous energy sources must be intensified and firmly reinforced with the support of the government, industry and local communities," said PNOC-EC president and CEO Rafael del Pilar.

Farm-in deals eyed for Mindoro, East Sabina blocks

STI spending ₱700M to ₱1B for expansion

PRIVATE SCHOOL CHAIN SYSTEMS TECHnology Institute (STI) wants to buy back more schools from franchisees in a bid to take advantage of the company's good fortunes.

STI president Steven Jacob said the company's more than 90 schools nationwide were even posting close to 7-percent growth in enrollment by the end of June.

"We're doing extremely well and we're expanding," Jacob said in a recent interview.

He said the company would be spending between P700 million and P1 billion as part of a two-year expansion program to build four company-owned schools.

The P3-billion expansion started last year with the building of a P300-million new facility in Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Jacob said STI was now building a four-story campus in Naga City, which can accommodate 3,000 students. It is also expanding its campus in Pasig City, which is currently its top school with about 12,000 students.

STI is also eyeing locations in Cebu City and Iloilo City.

He said the decline in the company's healthcare-related course offerings, like nursing, was covered by an uptick in enrollment in hotel and restaurant management programs.

The company's information technology program, which helped the school chain grow in the first place, continues to do well.

Jacob said the company was also planning to buy back some of its schools that are currently operated by franchisees.

Right now, he said out of the company's 92 schools, about 53 are owned by the company, while the rest are operated by franchisees. But these 39 schools contribute 52 percent of the firm's gross revenues every year. Paolo G. Montecillo

MyHealth putting up nationwide network of clinics

MYHEALTH CLINIC, A FIRM PROVIDING state-of-the-art healthcare services to customers, is putting up a nationwide network of multi-level clinics which will soon be linked via so-called "telemedicine services."

Currently operating branches in Muntinlupa, MyHealth Clinic serves insurance companies, health management organizations (HMOs) and walk-in patients, while also providing standard health services to the corporate market, including business process outsourcing firms and manufacturers.

In a statement, MyHealth Clinic business and marketing director Roche Erikson said the firm would have five multi-level clinics in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu by the end of the year.

"We are looking at growing the network of MyHealth Clinics by three to four a year and, in the next five years, we intend to cover most of the key regions around the country," he said.

"Each of the clinics in the MyHealth network will be among the first to utilize digital technology in patient care, and telemedicine will be among the state-of-the-art special services that our customers will have access to," MyHealth Clinic medical director Noel Beatrice added.

He said telemedicine was about providing access to healthcare services, from consultations to diagnosis and management, remotely and often via the Internet.

"We will soon have a portfolio of at least 200 specialists all over the country, all of them will be interlinked with each other, exchanging information and knowledge, and each of our customers will benefit from this through Telemedicine," Erikson said.

In addition to standard services such as annual check-ups, MyHealth Clinic can book appointments of corporate customers to its network so that they need not line a doctor in order to see their physician. Doreen J. Jocson

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Website: www.inquirer.net/business
Business Features Editor
Margie Quiroga-Espino

Turning an opportunity into Cannes and Clio winners

PETCH (left) was able to bring excitement back to Saatchi & Saatchi.

By Regge Pe
Contributor

WHEN YOU DO NOT GIVE people restrictions, you bring them to places they've never been before.

That's how Andrew Petch recipients his Pinoy creatives at Saatchi & Saatchi Manila. Look where his team has gone so far in Clio and Cannes ion conferences!

Andrew Petch came on board quietly as Saatchi & Saatchi Manila's executive creative director more than a year ago. Professional brothers, he entered rolling up his sleeves with a mission: Bring creative renaissance to the agency at the time when the industry was pursuing budget cutbacks and the world reeling from massive recession.

A tough timet'se it seemed.

But in a few months, Petch was able to bring excitement back to Saatchi & Saatchi, an agency known to have bred some of the Philippines' most creative ad people. The effort largely successful, the results, definitely marked handsome, and a lot more — still achieved in such a short time.

Here's a bit of a background on the man who firmly believes in the Filipino talent.

Before his Manila post, Petch was with Saatchi & Saatchi Singapore where he worked amongst three most creative ad agencies in the world). Along with regional Saatchi & Saatchi ECD Andy Greenaway, Jagdish Rainadevan and Richard Copping, he saw was part of a quartet that raked in yearly awards by magazines, building a handsome portfolio and a collection of trophies to do list.

Prior to his dominating Singaporean stint, Petch also worked with Saatchi & Saatchi and Publicis London, Cannes Metro Australia (the agency that created Cannes Grand Titanium winner last year ("The Best Job in The World") and BMF Sydney.

He was assigned a juicy role as Saatchi & Saatchi London's — global creative director for brand Tony Kanaan and as BMF created a TV spot that was voted as one of Australia's Top 20 TV Commercials of the Decade. "Fungus," an ad for Bonbeya Extra Dry Beer.

SAATCHI'S attention-grabbing outdoor ad campaign for Ninth Face. Silver at 2010 Cannes.

Rise in ranking

Saatchi & Saatchi Manila, which has previously shielded in creative ranking, now seems bent on regaining its once lofty place in the Philippines, as well as in regional shares.

Thanks to Petch's outstanding credentials and Blair Ard- don's management, it is not far-fetched that Saatchi & Saatchi Manila will climb back to glory.

Petch takes pride in securing (list of Saatchi & Saatchi clients get more competitive) integration. One does not deal with so many agency opts-offs. Saatchi co-handles together what was unbundled before and you deal only with one brand — Saatchi & Saatchi, the brand that delivers "Lovemarks" to consumers, the relationship that creates an intimate, emotional connection to them.

Petch, who believes that strategic thinking is what fuels the core of creative development, is fond of using the word "opportunity." He makes no bones (on record) using the word to express his standard for excellence in fund himself solve them for clients.

"Twice every opportunity Look for them. If you can't find one, especially in today's world where you just can't depend entirely on traditional media to give you the edge."

Indeed, it worked for Petch and true to point was his nomination in the Cannes Titanium traditional outdoor media work for Ninth Face, a global and mall owner/operator of outdoor gear.

As Ninth Face wanted to advertise their products in Cannes (their base as they do traditional ad displays because of housing thousands of competitive products), Saatchi utilized what was in space available: the event's tech and shelves.

Petch and his team created an outdoor campaign by gathering ordinary materials — rocks, twigs and leaves and packaged them as attention-grabbing mall "outdoor survival" products.

On the front side of the pack, Saatchi wrote all different ways a person would use the product, including as what bark. They revealed the brand and message at the back.

Customers were instantly drawn to the merchandise and soon were rumored to buy them. Not bad for a campaign built on rocks, twigs and leaves. The campaign generated a big result: 15 percent month on month sales.

The icing on the cake: a Cannes Silver trophy just last week, sweeping all the accolades in the world's biggest advertising festival.

It is a great testament to the idea that selling a client's brand should not be boring, predictable and ordinary but with a measure of surprise.

Similarly, Saatchi & Saatchi Manila won the country's best performers in 2010 Clio Awards, bagging a Silver to prize-grabbing "It's the Weekend Vibe," "You and Me," "Embrace," "The Brand" campaign for Shopa. The ads were simple but with strong idea, very human and truthful.

How does Petch motivate and inspire Pinoy talent to flourish to bring out their best?

Filipinos are world-class

The one thing that he keeps in mind dealing with creative people is "I give people a big room to play and explore. No limits. My job is to push for original work and make them do the best that they can be," he says.

"Ideas anywhere in the world are the same. There are no borders and Filipinos are just as talented as creative people anywhere else in the world. But unfortunately, there's room for improvement in our direction and craft which makes the difference," says Petch.

An amiable, soft-spoken person who works just as hard as his team, Petch is deeply passionate about his role in bringing Saatchi Manila to its rightful glory status. He expects his Pinoy staff to always prepare for the battle just as he is ready for it.

"There's nothing that Pinoy talents can't present or showcase," he says. Unlike other creative directors who are unfairly and idea killers, Petch promises to be the opposite. He tells them "me to hold back because there's where interesting, unexpected and innovative works come one."

GOINGS-ON

New best practice for board of directors

The Center for Global Best Practices has launched a pioneering best practices program titled, Board of Directors' Guide for Audit Committee, which will be conducted today at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

This unique program is designed for board directors and members of management, including CEOs, CFOs, auditors and accountants, who are actually undertaking or planning an audit committee charter.

The DPI Accredited two-day comprehensive seminar is a useful guide with practical applications on how to craft a working program and agenda for audit committees.

Full details and other upcoming seminars are at www.cgbp.org. For queries, call 843-1138 or 58 or 556-8888 or 89 e-mail at ivy@cgbp.org

Asuncion-Berenguer Inc. sets up office

In line with the increasing demand for architecture and interior design work demanded by a resurgent economy, design firm Asuncion-Berenguer Inc. (ABI) set up a new office in a vertical Greenhills location.

The firm headed by partner architects and husband-and-wife team R. Bigno P. Asuncion and Isabel Berenguer Asuncion are currently enlivening the Ladera and standards of the aspiring Metro Manila as has handled through the architectural and interior design work they are doing for a number of leading developers.

One of its most recently completed projects is the interior design of the public areas, corridors and the Wellness Center of the St. Luke's Hospital at Bonifacio Global City.

The new offices are at the Home Studio Building on Connecticut Street, Northeast Greenhills, San Juan City.

Asuncion-Berenguer's work can be viewed on www.abi.ph.

Learn the build and sell techniques

To meet the needs of developers and investors desiring to go into the popular business of build and sell, Urban Institute of Real Estate will conduct a mentoring course on Build & Sell that will start July 3, 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), Makati City.

The build and sell mentoring course consists of lectures and site visits to unopened and ongoing construction sites and completed projects. Scheduled session dates are July 3, 13, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 and Nov. 6.

For more details, its Secretariat may be reached at 509-7403, 799-2019, 0918-626-9114, info@uirest.ph or uirest.ph@gmail.com.

Business opportunities at 18th Franchise Expo

The organizers of the forthcoming Franchise Expo 2010 are preparing a wide array of business opportunities for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their relatives, including the country's growing number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Expect more than 300 booths of franchised businesses to be showcased by the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA), a free seminar on "How to Buy the Right Franchise" will also be conducted during the staging of Franchise Expo 2010 at the SMX Convention Center on July 16-18.

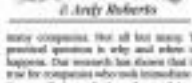
PFA chair emeritus Sarnie Lim said the exhibits would include businesses requiring price capitalization of as low as P500,000 that OFWs and micro enterprises could easily afford.

"The Franchise Expo is indeed a one-stop shop. We have a showcase of the best franchise investment opportunities available, plus we're helping would-be franchisees to make wise franchise investments by offering them a free seminar," Lim said.

"The expo will have other allied services to assist the OFWs and micro entrepreneurs in going about the entire process of getting into business," Lim added.

He said: the expo will serve as an effective venue in channeling the OFW remittances into wise and profitable investments, according to PFA chair and Wilcon's Fundaconcept president Robert V. Tesa.

The 'Plan B' mindset



Q: WHEN IT'S TIME TO FORMULATE our marketing plan for the succeeding year, from one year to the next, we either have a consultant who facilitated the planning preparation and sessions, or else do the facilitating ourselves. Anyone is our marketing planning month for the following year.

We just had a meeting to prepare for this and someone in the group mentioned about the need to have a contingency plan. After all, we could just continue what we're doing this year and that because the marketing plan for next year. But the fact that we're planning for something else is the Plan B. It's the plan contingent on how your being different from this year.

And speaking of what actually happens during the planned year, we've almost always been worse for than we've planned. For example, in the past three years, we had been below quota but we've not been too far below. The years previous to those past three years, we've actually exceeded our quota but again, not too far above. So overall, we're just about even on being on target. At our meeting was said, "our plan is a bit difficult, perhaps." (Do you think he's right?)

What do you honestly think about our attitude toward marketing planning and contingency planning? The guy who attended your seminar told us you certainly will tell us that we do not have the right mindset or attitude. Is this so? (What's wrong with our mindset?)

A: You've raised a couple of important questions. We'll start with the question that relates to your insight about being "overall just about even on being on target."

Self-fulfilling prophesy

That is marketing plan-ners use to be "a self-fulfilling prophesy" is the experience of many companies. Not all but many. The practical reason is why and how this happens. Our research has shown that it is true for companies who took immediate action on their marketing plan and implemented it flawlessly. The character of the plan was also responsible for attaining the plan's objectives. The plan was actionable because top management saw to it that it was done. It was a "buy in" from all the supporting units of the organization especially the sales group, the marketing plan's implementors.

Over time, the same company may swing from good to poor in its "self-fulfilled prophesy" record. For example, over the past two to three recession years, some of those who planned to even succeeded in marketing plan's action objectives included, just to mention a few, Unilever (formerly Unilever) under Ric Albo, Fila under Cris Alberi, and EPC under Jess Montemayor. During those uncertain years, those companies were under CEOs who were driven by an implementation culture and were known for their relentless pursuit of efficiency and quick "win-in-some" initiatives.

The years of 2007-09 were economically challenged years. So it was only natural for marketing plans to be overly pessimistic. Like most of us, marketers tended to give the larger proportion of their attention to the likely downsides of the future. That's what makes planners change the contingency plans were about. The years before 2007 were relatively good years. It was a market environment that encouraged marketers to plan under the assumption of a likely year-ordered future. This alternating planning environment scenario is a good caveat for your three years of being above quota succeeded by a new three years of being below quota.

Planning—NOT!

To just continue once your what you are doing this year is not planning. That's recapitulating which does not even come close to planning. It's forecasting that's marketing planning's starting point. So it's fundamentally wrong to say that your initial marketing plan can count as your contingency plan. Another mindset to remove is the believer's lack of capability is responsibly armed to the details of what could possibly happen later.

The very intent of a contingency plan separates it from your marketing plan. Your intent is to anticipate and identify major uncertainties in your marketing plan in that you can prepare a "Plan B" that should take care of a future that departs from what your marketing plan expected. Preparing a Plan B requires putting in place at least two mechanisms to effectively serve its intended purpose. These are: (1) a monitoring system that's able to quickly and accurately capture incidence of uncertainties representing deviations from expected (2) setting up the organizational unit with limited managers who are ready to quickly put in place and activate Plan B. So can you still say that your initial marketing plan can serve as your contingency plan?

Monitoring system

We close by underscoring the need for a monitoring system. Monitoring should be for both positive and negative uncertainties. A positive unpredictable obviously will work in your favor. You have to understand why so that you will know what to reinforce in the future. A negative uncertainty is the opposite; it will work against you. You must be analyzed so you'll know what to correct or avoid later. This leads to our final overall marketing planning fix. In preparing your Plan B, realistically anticipate what can go wrong and what can go right, and then have the managers who will be ready to quickly implement the Plan B.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at drned@marketingrx.com.ph and Marketing@philrtc.org. God bless!

Expo marks rise of prestigious brands as business gift options

THE FAST GROWING CORPORATE AND consumer markets for business gifts have inspired clusters of prestigious brands to vie for their share of the action.

These brands, mostly geared as gifts for equally prestigious executives and clients, are taking part in what used to be a monopoly of purely one-traditional and in-novative products.

But the market for gifts for various occasions has greater to-ing that suppliers of every model conceived launch have taken notice.

Names include international names like Samsonite, Parker, Timex, Coros, Vanmart, Bellini, Coleman and Ruby Project; and home-grown brands like Tatline, Team Manila and Manolo's Leather goods, among thousands of others, which will go on exhibit at Corporate Giveaways slated for the it. Venue Room Hall of Asian Lifestyle City on Makati Avenue in Makati on July 7-10.

Organized by Trade Fairs & Concepts (Mindshare), Corporate Giveaways is the country's biggest and longest-running annual international buyers' show on business gifts, promotions, promotional ideas and merchandise incentives.

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FOR SALE / FOR RENT

ROLEX
LOUIS VUITTON

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HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION
Office of the President

NOTICE OF SALE

Please be informed that the following properties of the Home Guaranty Corporation are being offered for public bidding.

	PROPERTY LOCATION	TYPE	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	SELLING PRICE	REMARKS
1.	Blk 1 Lot 28 Greenville Estate Subdivision, Brgy. Pamplona-uno, Las Piñas	1 Storey Res. Bldg. with Fence	52.00	200.00	843,000.00	Vacant
2.	Blk 1 Lot 16 Alicia Heights Subdivision Phase2, Alicia, Isabela	2 Storey Res. Bldg.	37.00	132.00	783,000.00	Occupied

BIDDING FORMS CAN BE SECURED FROM THE ASSET MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSITION GROUP (AMDG) LOCATED AT THE 4TH FLR., MDB BUILDING, 105 SEN. GIL PUYAT AVENUE, MAKATI CITY, FROM JULY 5 TO 9, 2010 DURING OFFICE HOURS. THE OPENING OF BIDS WILL BE ON JULY 12, 2010, 3:00 PM AT THE AMDG CONFERENCE ROOM.

FOR INTERESTED PARTIES, YOU MAY CALL (632) 8580-0344 LOC 123 OR (632) 8580-0344 LOC 123 OR VISIT OUR HEAD OFFICE AT THE ABOVE BLDG.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS**
VICE PRESIDENT
ASSET MANAGEMENT
AND DISPOSITION GROUP

Filipino trainers showcase talents

TO THE SURPRISE OF everyone, the outgoing Board of Trustees of the Philippine Society for Training & Development (PSTD), which respectfully dressed in boring tagalog and boxy suits, broke out in a hip-hop dance number to the upbeat music of "I've Got a Feeling" by the Black-eyed Peas. But this was just the opening number of the fellowship night with the theme "Wrong Moves" of the 36th PSTD National Convention held in Teel View, Tagaytay. The activity aimed at giving the convention delegates, who are mostly training practitioners from all over the country, an opportunity to meet and have fun with their fellow practitioners, and also showcase their God-given, or better-left-hidden, talents.

The fellowship night was hosted by Ms. Lourdes Sol-Cruz and Ms. Abigail Asercion-de-Leon.

The PSTD Convention is an annual event organized by PSTD Board of Trustees. To learn more about PSTD or how to be a member of PSTD, you may contact 634-0372 and 812-9931 or email secretariat@pstd.org. You may also visit the website www.pstd.org

OBITUARIES

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Inquirer Obituaries

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (ID)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and back-to-back payments

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

In Loving Memory
on the
Second Death Anniversary
of

Capt. DEMOSTHENES V. CAÑETE

who passed away on July 2, 2008

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. he who believes in Me will live, even when he dies, and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."
John 11: 25-26

"And she shall live in the house of the Lord forever."
Psalm 23

SR. MARIA LETICIA F. ALLADO RGS

May 6, 1959 - June 28, 2010

On June 28, 2010 our dear Sister Leticia peacefully joined Jesus, the Good Shepherd after 43 years in religious life.

The Religious of the Good Shepherd, her bereaved family and relatives are grateful for your prayerful remembrances.

The wake is at the Good Shepherd Chapel, 1040 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City. Her cremated remains will be interred at the Good Shepherd Columbarium, after the Mass of the Resurrection on Sunday, July 4, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

Atty. Modesto A. Tattonghari, [illegible]

Born in Bleik, on [illegible] January 12, 1914
- lived under the Roxas of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.
Left this life working Earth, June 23, 2010 to join his great Creator.

Body lies in state at Barangay Lodge # 10
Funeral Rites : July 1, 2010
Cremation : July 2, 2010

In loving memory

His Family & Brethren
Barangay Lodge #10, [illegible]
Barangay Bulan, [illegible]

ROSITA SASOY SANTOS

of 3 Pine Hamak St.,
La Loma, Quezon City
and
Tanza, Cavite

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 29, 2010 at the age of 70.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc. at 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on July 01, 2010, Saturday at Arlington Crematory after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

Our Beloved Maranty

VIOLETA DAVID PAGUIRIGAN

Apr 18 Ed, 1938 – June 30, 2010

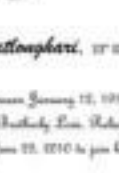
[illegible] and Jun-Jun Paguirigan; grandchildren Rafael Jr., Monica and Christopher Villaruel; family and [illegible] and Adrianne; and Miguel Paguirigan; and great grandson Antonio Villaruel; request the prayers and/or support for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Park Marikina, Chapel 5.

Mass will be a Mass at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 3, 2010.

Interment will be held on Sunday, July 4, 2010 after the Interment Mass. Those will Loyola directly at 911-5111 or 911-5112 for the reservation of the urns.

Rest in the peace of our Lord
Here we rest at the age of 74
Nilon Javier Tarrudas



Message of Thanks

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of the Lord"

We the family of the late

Judge Iluminado C. Monzon (ret.)

November 20, 1950 – May 19, 2010

who departed for another world at the age of 59

express our sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to all our relatives and friends who shared with us the grief and sorrow during the time of our bereavement. The memory will always be remembered and your prayers will forever be treasured.

MENELEO "MENY" A. CABRERA

July 2, 1912 – June 22, 1996

In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Tenderly we treasure the past with memories that will always last.

His loving wife CLYDE, *children* JUN, MIKE, MONINA, MYRNA, MARLON, *and grandchildren in Canada, USA and Philippines*

NORMITA R. PEÑA

[illegible]

Atlas targets $200M in copper sales, eyes hydro plant in Cebu

By Nica T. Dimandra

ATLAS CONSOLIDATED MINING AND DEVELOPMENT Corp. expects to generate about $200 million in sales this year on the back of rising metal prices.

Vice president Alfonso S. Ramos told the Inquirer in an interview that Atlas, which recently completed its 22nd shipment of copper concentrates since December 2008, is looking to produce 23,000 tons of copper sales this year.

Ramos said that first-half 2010 sales were already projected to surpass total 2009 sales.

Sales estimates are currently based on an average price of $7,000 per ton for copper.

Rising analysts project that copper prices could improve due to increasing demand for metals in growth markets like China, where infrastructure projects must keep pace with urbanization.

Given this scenario, Ramos said that $200 million in sales would be a "reasonable" estimate.

Revenue in first half expected to beat '09 numbers

Meanwhile, to address the need for stable power supply, Carmen Copper executive director George J. Bunze said in a recent presentation before stockholders that there was no ongoing study on how to tap the company's water assets in Cebu.

The water assets could be used to generate hydropower and supply water to the area of Cebu province.

Executive vice president and CFO Benito C. Buckingham said this commercialization of Atlas' assets most would have a "minimal" impact on revenue even if surplus power is sold.

Hydropower will be used mainly to ensure stable energy supply for mining operations in Cebu beyond 2013, he said.

Earlier, in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Atlas announced that Carmen Copper's long-term power supply agreement with Toledo Power Corp. will commence this month, replacing "existing higher-cost sourcing arrangements."

Carmen Copper is also installing a 11.2-megawatt, bunker energy generating plant to further improve the stability of power supply.

"As a consequence, the energy requirement of (the Carmen) mining operations will be satisfied on a 24-hour stable basis for the next 5-8 years at a significantly lower cost than present arrangements, which have rendered daily production of copper concentrates, particularly during peak hours," the company said.

Atlas reported a net income of P364 million for the first quarter of 2010, a turnaround from a loss of P101 million for the same quarter in 2009.

Hope in the new agriculture secretary

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

THERE IS MUCH HOPE THE SECOND appointed Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala will help bring a brighter future for agriculture. He has presidential support, the right priorities and appears to be a man of his word.

President Noynoy Aquino has made agriculture one of his top priorities.

In his inaugural speech, the President said in Pilipino: "If there was a fertilizer scam before, now there will be true caring for the farmers. We will help them in irrigation, extension services and selling their products at the highest possible prices."

What is truly encouraging is that the President elected confidence in Alcala by saying in the same speech: "We are referring incoming Secretary Alcala to set up sealing centers where the farmers can have a direct link to the consumers."

Just split

By doing this, the President explained that much of the profits that used to go to the middlemen can now be split between the farmer and the consumer.

President Aquino undoubtedly knew that Alcala was setting up trading centers even when Alcala was still a congressman.

I had written about Alcala's project in my book published by the United Nations Development Programme and the National Economic Development Authority as early as July 2005: "Texas lived to Shell: A Logistical Evaluation of Philippine Agriculture."

It showed that the "true ceiling for the farmers" President Aquino described in his inaugural speech would really be attained through the trading centers where the farmers' income would be substantially increased.

A June 30 issue item reported that President Aquino had said that Alcala will be "a main agent for the job generation aspect of our platform ... the ban have heavily involved in encouraging consumers within and without Quezon. Organic farming and so many aspects of agriculture have been the advocacies of Alcala."

Right priorities

Aside from increasing farmers' incomes by rationalizing the inefficient marketing system and promoting organic agriculture, Alcala said: "In three years' time, we may no longer have to import rice." This shows that he gives the proper priority to food security as a major DA objective.

Another quality that Secretary Alcala can add Roberto Ongpin's demand is that the agriculture secretary be a man of his word. They are tired of unfulfilled promises. The 2009 DA budget of P68.7 billion was more than three times the 2006 budget of P21.7 billion, and was predicted to benefit farmers and fisherfolk.

Instead, there were reports of scams and massive corruption.

The governmental private sector National Agriculture and Fisheries Council (NAFC) was legally mandated to monitor budget use, but never met to carry out this function. Will Secretary Alcala allow independent budget monitoring to take place?

Jony Fuentes, executive secretary of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement (CORE), which is an Ayanes legislators member, believes so.

"Based on my experience with Congressman Alcala, he does what he says," Fuentes has said. "An indication is that he helped us set up the local Coconut Industry Development Councils in his district and continues to fight for the coconut levy being given to the coconut farmers."

On this issue, Alcala delivered on his promise by authoring Resolution 1024 to the House of Representatives in March 2009. This authorized that the Presidential Commission on Good Government recruit how the coconut levy was being used, specially because of severe substantial investments being done without the knowledge of the coconut farmers.

Conclusion

The farmers and fisherfolk are now placing their hopes on Secretary Alcala and it is recommended that Alcala immediately revitalize the NAFC, and the NAFC's regional, provincial and municipal counterparts.

This way Alcala's promise of small farmers and fisherfolk participation will be realized and its effectiveness and efficiency. Then the hope for the new agriculture secretary can soon become reality.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture; and trade and industry. He welcomes and suggestions. Email Agriwatch.ph@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 9221132).

Mining firms push CSR

By Cristina Arzadon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LAOAG CITY—MINING COMPANIES ARE making corporate social responsibility (CSR) a top item on their agenda in response to the growing hostility toward mining operations.

Through a draft guidebook on CSR that the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines has put out and presented to stakeholders for scrutiny, the industry seems to spread the word that mining does not only mean profit.

To the chamber, mining also means preserving the environment and embracing the community.

Artemio Disini, the chamber's chair, said the guidebook was an attempt to demonstrate the industry's commitment to responsible mining as well as sustainable development.

"We must convince people that we are a responsible company to get the social license to operate ... that we are not merely engaging in profits," he said.

The draft guidebook was based on available research on responsible mining, legislative and administrative issues and international guidelines on mining and development.

The Chamber of Mines presented the draft guidebook to mining industry stakeholders in Luzon during a recent forum organized at the Fort Bonifacio Resort and Hotel here.

The forum gathered mining companies, government agencies tasked to regulate mining operations, representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and non-government organizations.

The participants were given copies of the draft and were asked to comment and provide recommendations for the chamber's consideration.

Similar presentations were done in the Visayas and Mindanao.

A summit has been scheduled for July before the book's publication and release in September.

Sofia Hidrosa, the forum's organizer, said the presence of governments and non-government institutions was a key to sustainable and responsible mining.

"The success of a mining operation is reflected when the host communities gives its consent of the presence of mining," she said.

The guidebook encourages mining companies to comply with the law and assume responsibility for the impact of mining activities on people and the environment.

It provides standards in addressing specific concerns generated by mining operations such as health and safety, environment, community engagement and development, labor, human rights, transparency and accountability.

Globe revamps post-paid offerings

By Paolo G. Montecillo

AFRAID GLOBE TELECOM INC. HAS revamped its post-paid plan offerings, in a bid to better meet the needs of consumers.

Globe Telecom this week introduced its new "Fully Loaded" plans, which, together with the existing Globe "My Super Plans," will replace the old plans that have fixed amounts and strict lock-in periods.

"It's time for the company to adapt to the market's needs," said Martha M. Sazon, head of Globe Prepaid Platforms and Devices group.

The introduction of the new flexible plans is part of change in the company's mind-set, from being a utility, which consumers have no choice but to patronize, to a regular service company, which must struggle against stiff competition to survive.

The My Super Plans product, which was introduced last March, allows users to choose from a list of unlimited services.

The means being able to combine services like unlimited texting, voice calls, landline calls and Internet surfing in a bundled package.

The unlimited text and call services apply only to subscribers within the Globe network.

My Super Plans also allows users to change the kinds of unlimited services in their plans every month, depending on supposed needs for that period.

This targets postpaid users that may want to be able to send a massive amount of texts only for a month for a fixed fee.

The new Fully Loaded plans, meanwhile, allow for subscribers to take plans with fixed fees of as low as P299 a month.

Depending on the size of the fixed fee, which will be consumable, users will be allowed to choose from a set of "freebies" like a certain number of free text messages or calls to any network.

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Accessories designer and known jeweler collaborate on unique line

By Cit-Cit Sioson
Contributor

"HIQUIZA WAS BORN OUT OF my craving for a range of accessories that are new, fresh and unexpected, while still making use of traditional Philippine components that are of value," said Bessie Concepcion of the recently launched line of limited fashion jewelry. Concepcion collaborated with Ramon Villegas—a fourth-generation jeweler who has also worked with a Milan firm that produced accessories for the likes of Ramon Gigli and Fred Leighton.

Hiquiza, which means "riches" or "richness" in Spanish, incorporates the idea of a refined Filipino elegance of an era gone by and gives unique Filipino elements a new twist.

"Our passion for mining past and present shows is evident in these first collection, which features recut Granchiche staples nowadays made of crystals and tambourin beads.

"It is always exciting to work with these materials because there is always something new to learn and discover," said Concepcion, who also happens to be the great granddaughter of one of Manila's most celebrated women, Victoria Lopez Arnaiz.

How did you come up with the idea of creating fashion accessories inspired by Philippine colonial jewelry in particular?

Honestly, I had never thought of becoming a fashion designer. Since I was a child, I have always been more inclined toward music and the performing arts. I don't have any formal training in design or jewelry making, what I have is a sincere love, passion and respect for what I do and the materials I work with.

Ramon, on the other hand, has been around a long time. He is the expert and a collector of antique jewelry having written three books on the subject, which were reviewed in Arts of Asia (Hong Kong) and Vogue (South India, among others. He was [also] interviewed on the subject by Elle Ehrnich for CNN Style. Ramon's atelier not only restored artifacts that were in museums here and abroad, but he also executed designs by Dr. Arturo de Santos, Dr. Boyet Placido, Arturo Luz, avant-garde couturier Steve de Leon and Federico de Sosa of Sosa's Gallery in San Francisco and New York. When they were just beginning, his atelier did work for Celia Medina and Hernán Edañol.

What would you say is the trademark of Hiquiza?

Bessie Concepcion: A trademark of Hiquiza is our use of handmade filigree tambourin beads and tambourin pendants. The tambourin is a bracelet ornament, a significant piece of jewelry for the elite during the Spanish colonial period in the Philippines.

Aside from Hiquiza pieces being beautiful and eye-catching, they are also symbolic, as they reference Filipino tradition and history.

Ramon Villegas: A trademark of Hiquiza is the distinct fit and feel of each piece. The accessories work around the body, not against it. They are body jewelry. Both the necklace and the cuff/arm bracelet are part of the women's and her persona. We are confident that we have produced a new wave.

Where do you draw inspiration from?

BC: A great source of inspiration for me is Ramon himself. His countenance in restoring and re-setting my own personal vintage jewelry has made me appreciate these things presently as a young age and has given me a sense of pride that I can pass them on to the next generation of my family as a form of legacy.

RV: Manila has an energy that provides more than enough inspiration. There are more young people than old in this city, and if you go to Quiapo or Cubao[Ali] or Makati, there is a sense of playful experimentation every where . . . nothing overboard, nothing that makes anyone uncomfortable. . . just laid back expressions of individuality that somehow not everyone in the planet is able to do.

Who do you have in mind when creating your jewelry?

BC: One who is more concerned with quality, uniqueness and a sense of patriotism. They are trend-setting pieces for the stylish and confident woman.

RV: Hiquiza is for someone who has a feel for history, and a sense of her identity.

Truly, the past is here to be celebrated with, not only because of their passion for creating exquisite jewelry but also because of their passion for creating pieces that are uniquely Filipino...evoking a sense of nostalgia. For both, the greatest inspiration comes from home, which is rare to come by these days, as most would only consider foreign aesthetics and ideals.

HIQUIZA'S trademark is the use of handmade filigree tambourin beads and tambourin pendants. Pieces are made of crystals and tambourin beads.

BESSIE Concepcion and Ramon Villegas

Forever 21 is now in Manila

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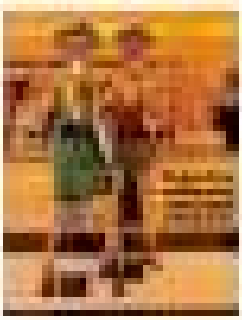

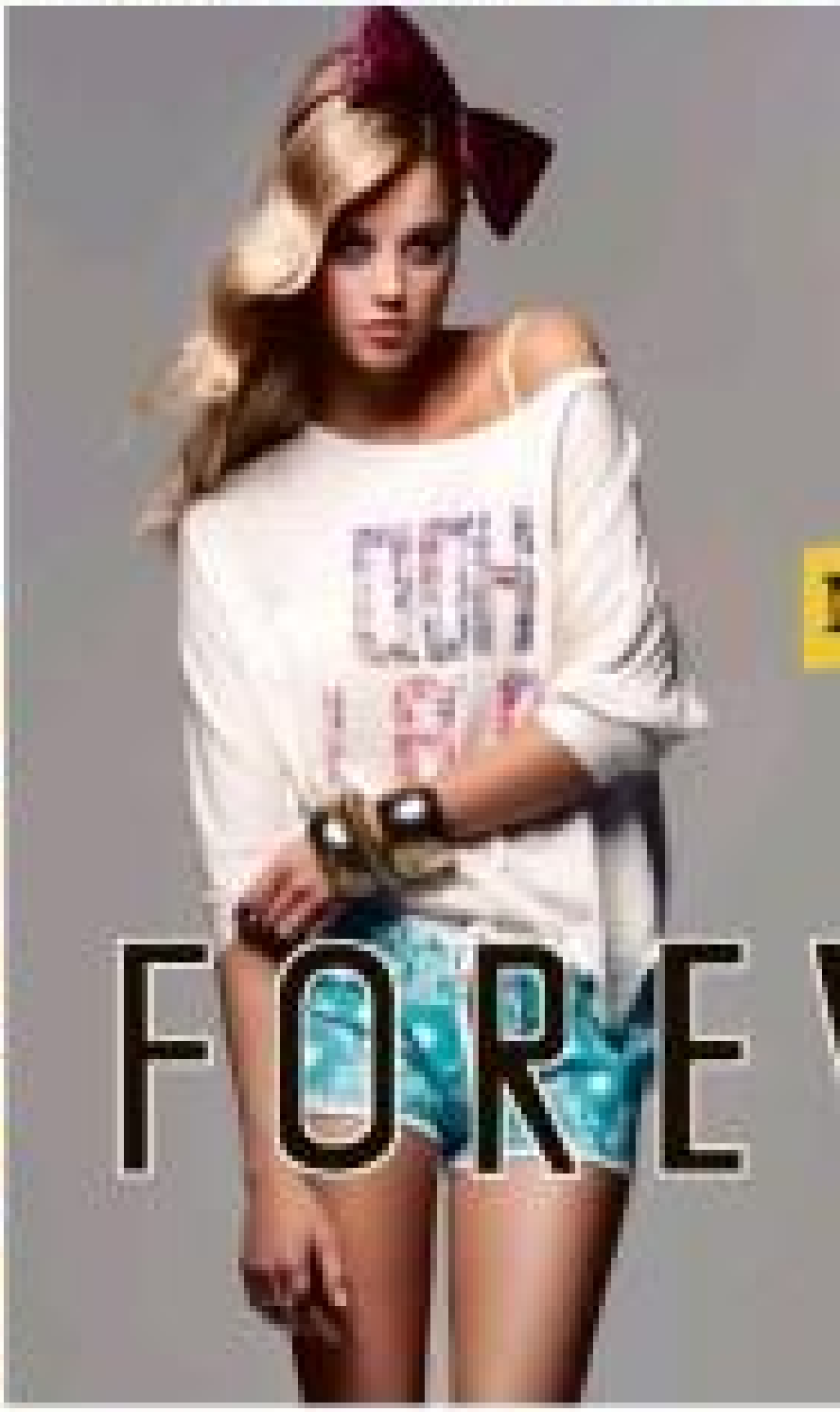

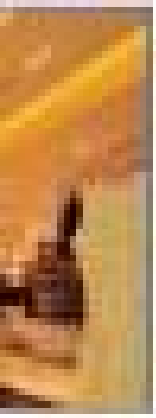

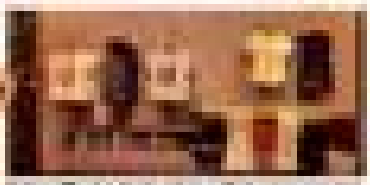

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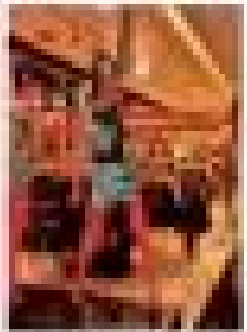

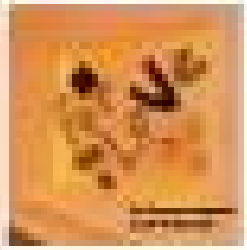

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Jump this way

THE UNSINKABLE FAB FOUR LADIES OF "Sex and the City" are back, sending fashion-hungry disciples across the globe—fickle, big-city mavens and taking notes on what's hot on the fashion radar.

This sequel, they're off to...who would have guessed—Abu Dhabi, emanating chic among the vestiges of sheiks.

And if you were taking down notes recently, jumpsuits are all over this film! Whether on the street or on a sound—it was apparent that the jumpsuit is definitely the standout piece for the season. The harem-style jumpsuit, which is gaining steam at the ankle and has been branded by

GARDEN variety from Cubo Penano, Rarcan's

GRAY'S economy from Wildflower, The Ramp

FUCHSIA punch from Wildflower, The Ramp

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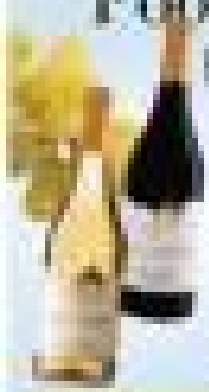
Food-Wine Pairings

Having wine for dinner?



Here are five basic rules for choosing the right wine for the right dish.

1. **Match color to color.** Like foods with like wines.

2. **Complement or contrast.** Pair weight to weight.

3. **Mind the intensity.** Delicate wines with delicate foods.

4. **Balance flavors.** Salty foods and sweet wines.

5. **Consider texture.** Creamy foods with creamy wines.

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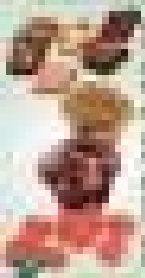

Oil's well that ends well

Healthy Foodie

Jump this way

From page B1

some as the "SEC bazaar watch shop," has been infused with a lot of style and glamor, elevating the outfit from wool coats to tour status.

All thanks to celebrated stylist Patricia Field, who put the '70s harem jumpsuit back in the spotlight, thereby making a decadent comeback for the season.

Historic seat the designer credited for bringing back the '70s style silhouette last season. And new designers Stella McCartney, Narciso Rodriguez and Bottega Veneta have followed suit, with their reinterpretations of the classic.

For Kenzo's Fall 2010 show, designer Marcus unveiled his free-spirited style with loose, easy and layered shapes in fabrics that were a patchwork of florals, plaids, embroidery and appliqué. The theme was very much about his mantra of liberty—hippie and vintage-influenced '70s chic.

What's great about the jumpsuit, aside from being very comfortable (especially the wider styles), perfect for humid days), is it can easily be worn from day to night. Dress it up with high heels and trimmer and it's perfect for a cosmopolitan-sipping night out.

On these pages are some versatile jumpsuit styles inspired by the catwalk and maybe even a current style.

SWEET SIX

What would you like one in feature next on the column?

Follow me on twitter.com/jennlapperson and visit www.jennlapperson.com!

HOT pink from Wildflowers, The Ramp

INDIGO right from The Ramp

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PAUL Smith Zip-Dyr Miller brogues

Tips for going brogue

PAUL SMITH's Spring-Summer 2010 collection reinterprets classic menswear and simple sportswear pieces in a fresh yet sophisticated way with clean lines and relaxed shapes in a full spectrum of colors.

A definite standout from the collection is the zip-dyr Miller gentleman's brogues. Available in two classic colors of charcoal and brown, it is comfort on a classic Oxford brogue pattern.

Simple brogue style tips:

- To have that casual look, you can pair your brogues with your favorite jeans and smart shorts for the wear shorts.
- For work, wear them the Paul Smith way to give that cool twist. Wear colored or printed socks with your favorite brogues.
- You can change the shoelace color (buy colored ones) to give it a new twist.
- Choose genuine leather (sorbalt) for a stylish pair.
- For that formal look, one can wear your favorite leather brogues with black pants, but remember to add something like a brown tie. One must have an amazing sense of style to get away with this look.
- Always wipe your brogues after use and take them for a while. Keep them inside the box and put silica gel inside the box to keep them from molds.

PAUL Smith 2010 Spring-Summer collection

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

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The Belo women

Thanks to Vicki, trying to look better is not something to be ashamed of

THEY HAVE BECOME THEIR own women and their relationship is one-of-a-kind. They run their own enterprises and have genuine respect for each other's achievements. They talk as if they were friends, but once in a while Vicki would say something to Cristalle that only a mother would say to her daughter.

Meet mother and daughter—Vicki Belo and Cristalle Reyneva.

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

Between the two it's actually Cristalle who can be more serious since Vicki exudes a very relaxed and carefree attitude.

In the beauty industry Vicki is unquestionably an icon, the pioneer who brought cosmetic surgery and dermatology to the mainstream.

To talk about getting a liposuction scar is no-no but thanks to Vicki, trying to look better is not something to be ashamed of.

Because her mom is Vicki, Cristalle could have been a celebrity merely by being Vicki's daughter, but she has also become her own person. She has made the Belo brand very affordable for the mass market. Now aiming for perfection is not something we have to run after in our later years but something we can work on at home. Prevention is after all the best defense against aging.

Favorite scent:
Vicki Belo (VB): Bvlgari Pink Rose
Cristalle Reyneva (CR): Coco Chanel Mademoiselle

Mall/pedalo color:
VB: French rip at clear
CR: I have soft nails so I just use Opi's duoplex to strengthen it.

Guilty pleasure:
VB: Shoes
CR: Travel

Itemical product you're offering:
VB: Cucumber from Spain
CR: Belo Mediceuticals Glutathione + Collagen which is our first ingestible product.

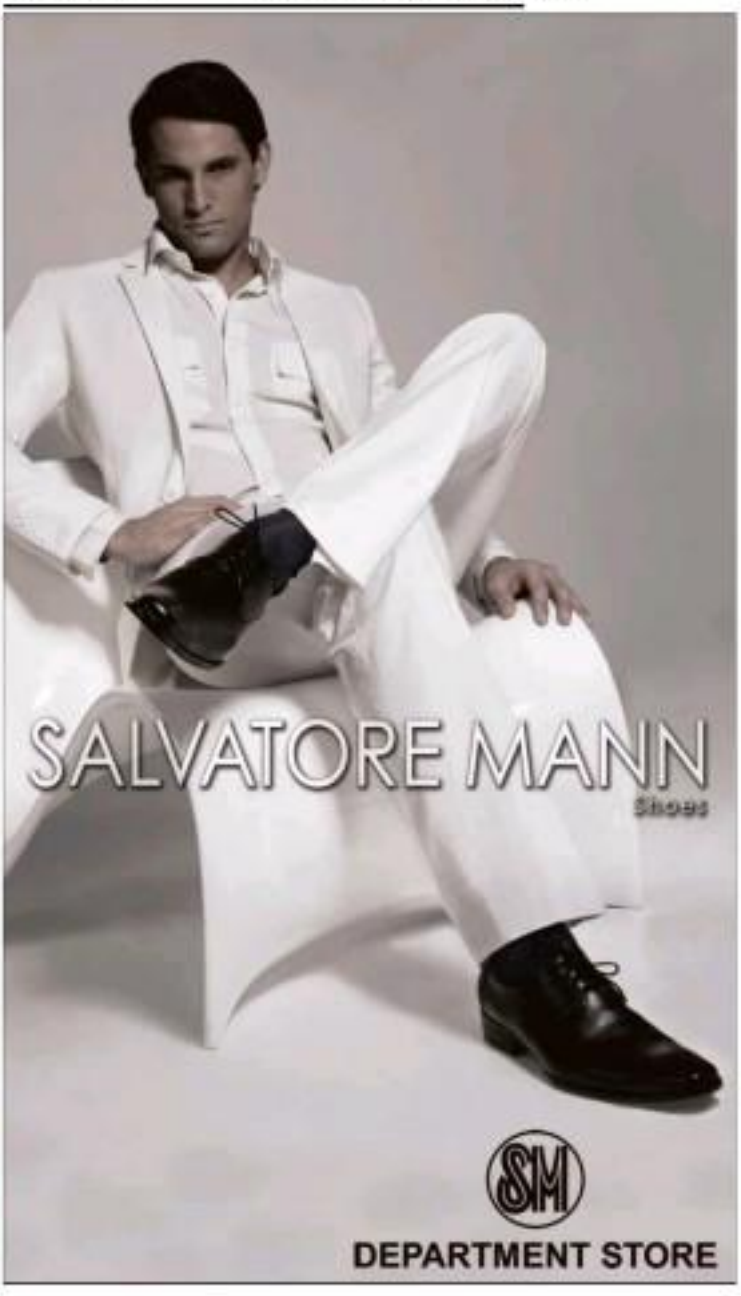
Inspiration:
VB: My mom Florencia and dad Enrique.
CR: My mom.

Where do you see yourself in five years?
VB: Hopefully a grandmother, but also still very active in the research and development of Belo.
CR: Married with two kids and still working on Belo's Intelligent Skin Care Incorporation.

Favorite TV show:
VB: Shows with doctors in it.
CR: A tie. "The Apprentice," "America's Next Top Model," "Grey's Anatomy" just to name a few.

THE BELO #1

Belo Essentials Sun Expert SPF 60 for the body and SPF 90 for the face



PENGUIN Philippines' managing partners Cheryl and Eric Lee with Penguin Senior VP for Merchandising Design and Creative Director Anne Payne

STACY Rodriguez with Hakuna Matatanina Penguin rep

BOYS SON Fernandez and his Egida

JOHN Esmeno and Priscilla Montilla, both in Penguin polos

JOHANNA Lee and Anabella Cuason

GARY Barzaga with Maan de Guzman, Eric Lee and Michael Garcia

FERGUS Bugg, Francis Libiran in Penguin, Jeni Baliwasan and Hal Montag

The Penguin is back

CHRIS Calvig, Jina Medrano and Eimen Pua

OUR FAVORITE LITTLE PENguin came back with a vengeance, darlings. We all loved and applauded this cute animal during the latest Spring/Summer 2010 collection launch at Rockwell but of the Original Penguin by Munsingwear. This 81-year old American iconic brand has been reinvented, as we searched its witty retro clothing, with modern details, darlings.

The venue had a '50s down-to-a-tee vibe with a makeshift jukebox on stage, sometimes on roller blades with Vespa and Catrini fun to match, while classic dinner favorites were served by the popular Skirt, passengers.

The bash began with The Bloomfields shaking the tent with their classic rock 'n' roll tunes, pelangan, followed by a fantastic show of evolution for men and women.

Beaming with pride over the awesome success of the launch were Penguin's native vice president for merchandising/design and creative director Anne Payne, together with Penguin Philippines' managing partners and exclusive distributors, adorable couple Eric and Cheryl Lee, no less, darlings.

Original Penguin has already grown to six awesome stores in the country, with their Trilogia boutique being the largest, with plans of two more stores by the end of the year.

A great fun night of welcoming back our favorite wobbling Penguin from the north pole, pelangan.

Check out Original Penguin at Stores Plaza Mall, Shangri-La Plaza, SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall, AlabangQuest Mall Powerplant, Bonifacio High Street and Ascham Greenbelt 5, exclusively distributed by Ascham Shoppers, Inc. (ASI).

Cosmeclan by Belo

The vivaciously adorable Vicki Belo of the Belo Medical Group, who introduced Cosmeclan, a new whitening and anti-aging cream, has sent celebrities and newscasters abreast the unbeatable Kris Aquino, swearing by its effects. In fact, a day after the launch, Kris emailed a boss about Cosmeclan that got a lot of people asking about the product.

The ebullient Bubby Dy, hottest host of Bilibit, introduced the foreign guests at the Terrace at the 5th in G.S. The event was superbly organized by event consultant and staging expert Josie Dingcong, no less, darlings. The superb food was prepared by acclaimed chef of Thai SEA and Terrace Cecile Tunsad with the resto partners, glam gals Marivic Zobel, Marcha Soriano and Carol Eurwin.

Florist Robert Manuelbar embellished the venue with his white blooms, hanging from the ceiling and elegantly arranged on long tables.

In town were Dr. Norman Pleto, Cosmeclan, export manager and son of Monsenido owners, and it's gorgeous Clara Sonya Mog, who joined us from Spain to explain to us the benefits of Cosmeclan, pelangan.

Dr. Pleto pointed out that Cosmeclan "is designed to prevent and improve the imperfections caused by hyper-pigmentation, which easily reduces and eliminates skin blemishes, increases skin luminosity and equalizes skin tone. Getting rid of unsightly melanin patches on the face is now possible with Cosmeclan."

Cosmeclan is distributed by Bilibit, the local company that markets Monsenido products. The Cosmeclan product and treatment are offered in all Belo branches and other dermatology clinics nationwide.

We, darlings, Cosmeclan is here to stay, di bale?

Fab mania screening

"Sex and the City" had our town's hottest young and young at heart all cleaned up for the movie, which took Manila by storm, darlings, during a red carpet happening at Greenbelt 3. A pre-movie cocktail given by that must-have bubbly Moët & Chandon gave us the right buzz before the film. After all, whose shoes are beautiful people, the champagne keeps flowing, pelangan. After the fab screening, we dashed to the ultra chic Mahal Shangri-La's Corazon's, which was transformed into one of Carrie Bradshaw's favorite Manhattan haunts for the movie party.

The pasta was a dialogue of jewel-toned fabrics, tea lights and undulating belly dancers.

We don't have to have a twenty-something vision to see that real Sarge Manolet completely scatters by gorgeous Georgina Wilson, who left the same way.

Drive from upscale Bel Aire to Makati Shangri-La and Shangri-La's Boracay Resort's Spa next to some lucky travelers.

For over 250 years, Moët & Chandon has been the symbol of glamorous celebrations, earning the industry into the extraordinary with the pop of a cork, darlings.

The world's most loved bubbly has been the official champagne of the Golden Globe Awards, Deauville Film festival, Cannes Film Festival, and became the exclusive champagne of the Oscars in 2009.

We, darlings, Moët & Chandon continues its legendary love affair with the magic of movies, the rich and famous.

For more info on the bubbly, call 7503806, e-mail chandon@gmail.com or visit www.moet.com.

CHRIS Calvig, Jina Medrano and Eimen Pua

BUBBY Dy, Jojo Dingcong, Nikki Matienzo and Marcha Soriano

CHRISTELLE Navarro and Marlo de Zoleta

ERIC Reyes and Mikey Romero wearing Penguin polos

JOEY Samson in a Penguin top

RICHARD Alverson, Kaey Torralba and Howard Co

CECILE Tunsad with Vicki de Leon and Carla Sikat

TERRACE and Tina Silo and Cecile Tunsad and Raya Manansala

BORGY Manotoc and Georgina Wilson

BUBBY Dy, Dr. Norman Pleto, Clara Sonya and Carlos Font

LEAH Rabonza with Anj Pineda and Liann Tolentino

CAMIL Garcia and Adora's Tricia Tinsay

ISABEL Daza and Simon Hemroff

ALAIN Khalifa with Lesley Tan and Trixie Bodiatoria

SHAMIRO Lit, Malesi's director of communications for Western with Pablo Olivarez, wife of the Shangri-La's wardrobe manager, and Hotel & Chamber VP representative Olga Asarion

Celebrating
15 years
of superb deals

MAKATI Supermart

Super Value Sale also happening at
Cash & Carry supermarket
Unimart

15TH ANNIVERSARY SALE

Sale Period: July 02 to July 16, 2010

Planters
P99.95

Golden Grain
P110.50

Comstock
P138.95

French's
P25.50
P45.25
P60.25

A.1.
P210.50

Indian Mango P21.00/kg • Singkamas P26.25/kg • Avocado P47.25/kg
• Calamansi P52.50/kg • Korean Pears P84.00/kg • Pineapple Big P42.00/pc
• Seedless Native Orange P68.25/kg • Crimson Seedless Grapes P173.25/kg
• Fragrant Pears P84.00/kg • Neosta Pomelo P152.25/kg • Patola P28.49/kg
• Camote P13.65/kg • Eggplant P31.50/kg • Siling Labuyo P168.00/kg
• Sayote P21.00/kg • Chinese Broccoli P68.50/kg • Native Tomatoes P34.90/kg
• Squash P13.65/kg • Green Pepper P71.40/kg • Sili Pangsigang P36.75/kg

The Belo women

Belo Gluta-Lipo 1 Collagen pills promise fair and youthful skin. Available at Watsons.

WOW! Beauty icon goes from high review. Disc, Chanel, Carmen and Jane Iredale

WOMEN of beauty: Vicki Belo and Cristelle Navarro

CRISTELLE's arsenal is fun and young. Benefit, Maybelline, Smashbox and Revlon

From page E1

First: (Dr)
Vicki: Belo
CH: San Francisco

You have always wanted to be ...

Vicki: Beauty editor-Lane.
CH: Training dolphins.

Best product you ever developed.

Vicki: Acne control kit
CH: Face refining, whitening lotion

Biggest accomplishment:

Vicki: My two kids who are loving, supportive and have good hearts.
CH: Launching Belo Essentials and having positive reviews in five months. Also we are dedicated to own 2,000 retail outlets.

How long does it take for you to get ready?

Vicki: 15 minutes
CH: 15-20 minutes

Cheapest product you love:

Vicki: Cutex
CH: Belo Essentials moisturizing whitening bar

Favorite song:

Vicki: "You'll Be Safe Here," by Rise Against
CH: "Dream a Little Dream of Me," by the Mamas and Papas

Favorite book:

Vicki: "The Alchemist," by Paulo Coelho
CH: "21 Immutable Laws of Branding," by Al Ries

Three beauty things you can't live without:

Vicki: Glam drying, scent and try anti-wrinkle pillow
CH: Alkaline water, eye cream and finds out expert SPF 40 for the face

Shampoo:

Vicki: Jo Malone, Universe and Swan-tone
CH: Revasense

Which body part do people ignore most?

Vicki: Hands and neck
CH: Underwear

Which procedure do you believe in?

Vicki: Laser Liposuction and Body Type because she radio frequency tightens the skin and most of the time the patient would have to go through liposuction.
CH: Blepcalp because it shapes and gives you also Alan I love Avanel for the face, since it tightens skin, removes blemish and bromia oil. Best of all it lessens acne appearance.

Best beauty tip given to you?

Vicki: Drink lots of water and have sleep.
CH: Be confident and believe in yourself

Look younger in minutes

Some age-defying moves to try out

Beauty RX

Muriel Chua

LOOK ageless with a little help from nude shades plus the right concealer

SEE BAD SKIN DAYS, bags and undereye circles have become that I now rely on cosmetics concealers to achieve a fresh looking and presentable face, to be out of the office.

It's official: I'm old.

Lately I've been thinking more and more about ways to ease the aging process and yield the best results in terms of skincare and makeup—or probably since feminine concerns or procedures aren't on the menu for me right now.

Thankfully, the beauty industry has not disappointed, providing both simple and high-tech solutions for those of us who need an instant boost with very a pinch or pinch to be felt.

Here are some age-defying moves to try out.

Easy eyebag camouflage

Speaking of undereye circles and eyebags, two products I now have on regularly are Revlon Age Defying SPF 25 Moisturizing Concealer in Light Medium and Noble Brown Foundation Stick in Warm Sand (the latter is meant to be used as a face base, but it also works great as a concealer).

To cover dark, reverse-colored parts of the face, start with foundation or concealer that is the exact shade of your skin. If you want something lighter at this point, it will only draw attention to what you're actually trying to cover up. Find the perfect match in your complexion, by testing the tinted base in natural lighting.

Next, dot concealer half a step lighter than your skin tone. Gently pat (against using your dirty fingers, so the strands can blend seamlessly instead rubbing), so the result only thin out the first layer.

New makeup move

After working with the two products above, most beauty pros would recommend finishing on home or personal powder to set the concealers in place. However, this only works if your face remains free of dust lines. Otherwise, the powder could leave unflattering creases. Unless you have a long day ahead under strong studio lights, you're better off leaving this step out, and opting for the natural, dewy finish of the lip and/or cheek tones. Also, the softer and creamier the makeup finish, the more youthful it actually looks on skin.

Warming against red

Your lips could also benefit from a tone lift, in the form of nude shades which lift to reveal and contour lips' dark edges. Revlon Colorburst Lipstick in Buff Nude (a versatile Flesh tone) paired with Bobbi Brown Lip Liner in Petal (a subdued rose that) leaves an unidentifiably younger looking, yellowy pout.

Note that sophisticated red has a downside.

"Strong red lip color can make you look older, especially if you're very fair. It can look less striking), almost severe," says Good Housekeeping beauty and fashion editor Pia Rojas. "Opt for lighter [hues] in pink or plum to give you a fresher, more youthful look.

Pia Rojas: Beauty with Style; pia.com and http://MyMissionView.com.

Beauty-conscious!

ORGANICS bath products, available in Watsons

How to take care of men's skin

(Part 1 of 3)

AS WE AGE, OUR SKIN undergoes changes, from the gradual to the obvious. Dry skin, oily skin, fine lines and wrinkles are just some of the conditions men will experience as we move through the decades of our lives.

These different stages call for modified adjustments in how we view and treat our skin.

When you're in your 20s, your skin is generally resilient and can endure most abuses. Many people in this age group take their skin for granted, but while it can take a beating now and easily recover, 10 years from now will be a totally different story.

Here are preventive and repairing products you need to your 20s to keep your skin looking your best longer.

Oily skin

If you thought you could kiss your skincare dilemmas goodbye as your teen years once you reach your 20s, think again. We were told that once we've left our unpredictable and hormone-beset years, then our skin will enjoy uncomplicated shine with only clear complexions on the horizon.

GROOMSMAN

LA Cunning Lopez

Oily skin is not done with you just yet. Expect occasional acne outbreaks—perhaps not as widespread as your teen years, but "hard to miss" big ones on your forehead, nerves, hand designing bushes and an unbreakable shine may be the cause.

Try Clinical Skin Expert Duo & Matte Gel Bands. This antishine gel which contains silica particles will remove excess sebum for a matte finish, without stripping away essential moisture. This wash also reinforces skin's natural resources against external aggressive environmental elements. (Available at department stores nationwide.)

Sun damage

Excessive and unprotected sun exposure can spell trouble for young skin. It can lead to sun spots and skin cancer in addition. You may think these only accent your summer tan, but small freckles will eventually become age spots.

Kiehl's Eye Alert

Start early—skin in your 20s won't last that way forever

Tine Lafo Revlon Moisture Renew Lotion SPF 15 (Avon lotion lotion) daily. Formulated for all skin types, this sunscreen lotion contains adequate SPF 15 to protect skin from harmful UVA/UVB rays.

The product is also enhanced with antioxidants to protect skin from sun-induced pollution. This sun-drying lotion contains only hydrates skin to keep it supple all day and to improve overall texture. Apply all over face and neck every morning.

Tired eyes

The eye area is one of the first places where fine lines appear since this part is also the most fragile and sensitive. Dark circles may be hereditary, but they can also result from cigarettes, alcohol, or lack of sleep. Along with puffiness, dark circles can be remedied with the right eye products.

Bath on some of Kiehl's Eye Alert in the morning and at night. Cucumber extracts soothe tired eye skin around the eyes and help it to hydrated and moisturized. Vitamin E and caffeine are active ingredients that constrict blood vessels in the area and tighten skin to lessen the bagged and baggy look.

The author is the copy editor of Bagsi Magazine

Smart and confident in crisp white linens

SEL SANTIAGO FRANCISCO began working in the advertising industry armed with a degree in Mass Communications from the University of Manila.

Working with Mr. Coca Hickson and Leo Burnett, she landed prestigious multinational accounts, creating campaigns commonly for A-list brands.

Still, though she learned much about her audience's desires and emotions, she did not feel she was making a significant difference in their lives.

In search of another path, she enrolled in Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, to take up Culinary Arts.

The CIA boasts a faculty of 240 American Culinary Federation Certified master chefs from 30 countries, plus 41 Kitchens, five public restaurants, six professional cooking and baking suites and a computerlearning center spread across 170 acres.

Her shift to the culinary world was the result of Mel going back and forth between the kitchen and the dining table for 7 years old, when she began helping out her mom in the kitchen—a goddesses of sorts in cooking terms.

The Working Class

Rina Elegan-Go, Contributor

Her mom, Sel Santiago Lebanon.

Cooking classes

Mel later started to teach cooking and baking classes at venues such as the Bankers Club, the Manila Polo Club and the Chinese School. Inspired by the likes of Nigella Lawson, Francois Payard, Martha Stewart and Ina Garten, she opened up her cooking classes with the use of music and dishes.

Pleased that children were developing a leaning toward gourmand food, Mel published a kids' cookbook called "The Wildkins," a book that was envisioned according to the different popular children's activities. Playtime, Sleepover, Birthday Party, Summer Vacation.

She believes that by getting involved, one can understand the process, so she not only encourages children to enjoy cooking but to make them even cooking as well.

Mel is also involved with Art in the Park, held yearly in Salcedo Park, Makati, which aims to raise funds for the National Museum. It is both her objective and her belief that art should be accessible to everyone, and that talented artists deserve the right exposure.

In the first few years of her marriage to investment banker Teddy Mel was unable to conceive. Instead, she devoted her time to charities for the needy, whom she not only considered orphans but regarded the joy of touch therapy. Her time in her and made her feel like the most important person in the world.

Eventually, she was blessed with her own baby, now a 24-month-old girl.

Purging clothes

Mel believes one should purge wardrobes. Clothes that are no longer age-appropriate and seldom used should be tossed away.

Other outfits that no longer feel well put together and confident. She likes pink and yellow for casual days, and bolder colors of red and blue for some other days.

Clothes that are no longer age-appropriate and seldom used should be tossed away, says Mel Martinez-Francisco

NICOLE: Gold metallic sandals, Zimmermann dress, Diane von Furstenberg clutch, Roberto Coin Fantastic Colorama earrings and ring

SINEQUANONE: Animal print Giles dress, Kamali bracelet (right) and ring

SUEVONG: embellished cocktail dress with flowers, Diane von Furstenberg platform sandals, Lamp available at Rustans Home, Hipmonas necklace

Teen brand rises to new 'elevation'

Penshoppe seeks to conquer the older market of yuppies and metrosexuals

By Larry Lovino
Contributor

AT THE PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK, THE Penshoppe show started with champagne and a dinner catered by Via Mare. Guests were then ushered into a function room that was decorated like a mock Miami Drive. That was the cue that Penshoppe has really re-invented itself as a powerhouse brand set on conquering a new market.

"From the designs of Alex Medina, to the fabrics, to the campaign and branding strategies, Penshoppe is poised to enter this new territory by appealing beyond their teen market into the lifestyles of yuppies and metrosexuals," said Bernie Liu, Penshoppe CEO.

The show "Elevation" was slick and sleek. For this year's holiday season, expect engineered leather denims in multi-washes and easy-to-wear separates that are fitted and structured with a London feel.

MILITARY INSPIRED: Sleek jacket with zig-lock accessories and layered jeans and official shoes in

PENSHOPPE GOES SOPHISTICATED: Brown zip-up jacket with metallic trims, denim and gold necklace

METROSEXUAL WEEKEND WEAR: T-shirt, cargo shorts and tights and fringed scarf

CHIC-TO-MIGHT OUTFIT: Khaki and metallics are part of the new Elevation Collection.

Lose those inches—with a Mich Dulce corset

By Marge C. Enriquez
Correspondent

Ciara Sotto's wedding gown proved it—corsets still reign supreme in reshaping the body

THE CORSET is made of fuchsia fabric, offset by matching contrast ties that run the length of the garment.

BACKLACED corset held together by ties tied meeting at the center.

17TH CENTURY corset and skirt look modern update

UPDATED: A white shirt by layering it with a corset.

WITH THE AID OF A CORSET, so sought-after by the stars, supper-actress Ciara Sotto-Oronce had a 20.5-inch waistline on her wedding day.

The corset, made by her best friend, designer Michelle "Mich" Dulce, gave her fuller hips and raised her breasts spectacularly, providing ample cleavage.

At the 29-year-old designer's prime, Sotto was Dulce's first corseted bride. Her bridal outfit was a corset and a skirt, cleverly designed to look like a single gown. Starting with a 25-inch waistline, Ciara diligently wore a training corset a month before her wedding last January. The waistline got trimmed and the tummy got flatter over time.

"You feel full most of the time, but you still have to eat. Otherwise, you'll get dizzy," says Ciara. Her sister reminisced that Ciara looked like a soldier, as the corset, made well for her, kept her to sit and stand erect. Her nephew thought she wouldn't make it on her wedding day as she looked so fragile.

Before the big day, the groom, dentist "Jojo" Oronce, EDD of a like production company, declared he didn't have the patience to undress the strings of her corset. Dulce offered him scissors to cut them on their wedding night and promised to replace the broken strings.

However, he went more of value. Ciara refused. After the wedding reception, the guys did the tedious job of untying it.

Gretchen, too

Ciara is just one among many who go to Dulce for her corsetry. Topping the list of her clientele are those who want to fit the killer tolerant of "Meglio Bod."

Aside from celebrities, there are women who order the corsets for help with their confidence or other orthopedic reasons.

Dulce's foray into corsetry was born out of her fondness for vintage fashion. After studying her basics in fashion at General St. Martin's in England, she went on to study millinery.

"I collected hats, but nobody knew how to make them here," she said. Studying the history and rudiments of hats fueled her friends for personal sleek. Hat.

Dulce became fascinated with corsets upon meeting celebrity stripper and fashion icon Dita Von Teese, who came to Manila in 2008. Von Teese had a 24-inch waistline. But with a corset, it whittled down to 18 inches.

Historically correct

Last year, Dulce enrolled in an intensive course on corsetry at the London College of Fashion.

"Nowadays, anything with boning is referred to as a corset," she says. "A total corset needs lacing. It must be historically correct. You can use practically any fabric. What's important are the bust (underwire) and the steel boning which I import from the UK."

Dulce, who occasionally lapses into a British accent, has also adopted the British work ethic of doing it properly or not doing it at all.

"I don't teach this to anyone. I do everything myself. It's very technical and mathematical. The proportions have to be accurate," she explains.

To achieve the hourglass figure, there is a ratio of the bust to the waist. "If you're not accurate, you don't get the silhouette."

It takes a day for Dulce to make the pattern, and two weeks to make the corset because the embroideries are counterlocked.

"It should be at least 90 percent perfect for the first fitting," she says.

It takes another two weeks to make the adjustments. "If it breaks, you have to start all over again."

Future is taken a month for a bespoke corset, which can cost as much as a Blackberry.

In this age of high-tech foundations — garments, corsets will reign supreme in reshaping the body. Ironically, they take time to show instant off. Aside from modifying the waistline, corsets can reduce pack up the chest or give them a smaller girdle. A corset can also save fallen breasts.

TIGHT LACING: Ciara's corset gives Mich plenty of hourglass-figure building time.

Tips

Dulce's tips for women to avoid suffering for a small waist: Break in the corsets a month before; stay in an air conditioned room; wear a camisole under the corset to avoid bruising. Avoid double knots as they are difficult to untangle when you're in a hurry to free yourself from the initial discomfort.

A corset can also be worn as sportswear, such as with Ciara's bridal outfit. It can peep under a jacket or layered over a shirt.

Dulce has a long waiting list for her corsets, partly because she spends six months in the UK. She participates in London Fashion Week and Spitalfield Market crafts fair, patronizing her base made from courtesy and meeting up with clients for her designs.

From designer to milliner and now corsetier, Dulce's got her creativity all tied up.

WINNING BRANDS, WINNING OFFERS AT WATSONS

Watsons HWB AWARDS
Health, Wellness and Beauty Awards 2010

You're a winner every time you shop at Watsons stores. As part of AS Watsons, the largest health, beauty, cosmetics, and perfumery retailer in the world, Watsons stores in the Philippines make sure that their customers get the best products from top brands all over the world.

Better still, Watsons honors these winning brands in its annual Health, Wellness and Beauty Awards. Best of all, you can avail of great promos and rewards from these award-winning products at all Watsons stores nationwide. These great bargains and more can also be found at Beauty by SM Department Store outlets.

WINNING BRANDS WITH WINNING OFFERS

You're a winner twice over when you buy these best brands that come with exciting offers.

Revlon ColorBurst Lipstick Mass/Age Cosmetics Product of the Year
The Winning Formula: Absolutely technology that feels virtually weightless.
Our Winning Offer: Every Revlon ColorBurst lipstick purchase entitles one to a 20% discount on other Revlon products that are P700 and above in a single or accumulated transaction.

Nivea for Men Men's Body Care Brand of the Year
The Winning Formula: The range consists of a complete line of skin and personal care products specially designed for men – from shave and balms, face washes and moisturizers, to deodorants, toiletries and lip care.
Our Winning Offer: Get 20% off on Nivea for Men products every weekend until July 4.

THESE BRANDS ARE TOPS

You'll love using these products again and again in your daily health, beauty, and wellness routine. We have them all at Watsons.

Lacoste Essential Sport Eau de Toilette Pour Homme Prestige Fragrance of the Year
The Winning Formula: Its sporty fragrance combines a fresh essence of grapefruit, minty patchouli, and an cold water accord.

Kaja Sun Shin
Lightening Soap
Best Dark Soap of the Year
The Winning Formula: Formulated with organic kaja acid, it has skin whitening and anti-bacterial properties. It lightens freckles, **acne scars and age spots, and also reduces skin** pigmentation.

Cream Silk Conditioner Line Conditioner of the Year
The Winning Formula: Cream Silk Conditioner could **hair strands with an advanced expert** conditioning formula for soft, smooth and manageable hair.

Nivea Whitening Inner Cell Repair Body Milk
Best Lotion of the Year
The Winning Formula: Enriched with berry and licorice extracts, vitamin C and UV/IR Filters, **its gentle** whitening formula is specially developed to **soften and strengthen damaged skin caused**

Oral-B Cross Action Pro-Health Toothbrush
Best Toothbrush of the Year
The Winning Formula: It provides **seven oral care benefits**, which includes a textured tongue cleaner and **soft gum stimulators** for a cleaner, healthier mouth.

Gillette Mach 3 Razor
Men's Personal Care Product of the Year
The Winning Formula: The Mach 3's three blade design **allows for a safer shave and also** reduces skin irritation since it requires **less pressure and fewer strokes than** other razors.

Myra E 400
Over-the-Counter Product of the Year
The Winning Formula: Myra E is made with natural vitamin E from seeds and leaves. It renews and protects cells, making skin look and feel healthier.

OFFERS YOU CAN'T RESIST

We've got more exciting brands with exciting offers just for you in Watsons stores nationwide and Beauty by SM Department Store outlets.

Watsons Grapestella Exfoliating Body Polish is made with a natural combination of grape extracts and apricot seeds. It gently exfoliates the skin to remove dead skin cells, leaving your skin moisturized and rejuvenated.
Our Offer: Get 30% off Grapestella products for the whole month of July.

Get professional style treatment at home since the high prices with Watsons Hair Treatment Wax. It comes in two unique formulas — all blended with natural extracts to suit problem specific hair types.
Our Offer: Buy 1 and get the 2nd at P1 for the whole month of July.

Sunsilk Co-Creations Shampoo
Our Offer: Buy any Sunsilk shampoo or conditioner worth P200 from June 25 to July 23 and get an exclusive Sunsilk Statement Bag.

Alli Anti-Obesity Capsules safely and effectively helps reduce fatty acid absorption for a significant loss in weight.
Our Offer: Get 50% off on 60 capsules starting June 24 until supplies last.

L'Oreal True Match Blush Rockers complements your skin's tone and texture as it enhances your natural glow.
Our Offer: Surrender your old blush and get 30% off on your L'Oreal True Match Blush purchase until July 27.

THE MARY KAY Asia Pacific national sales directors, including the Philippines' Christina Boyd (foreground, in peach gown), with their spouses, aboard the luxury liner M/Y Silver Cloud, all destination for the gala dinner held at Monaco's Hotel Hermitage

Beauty company takes sales force on luxury cruise

By Cinette V. Hosé

IT MAY SOUND EXTRAVAGANT and frivolous for one beauty company, especially following a globally challenging year for business, to charter an entire luxury ship to toast its top sales force on a weeklong cruise in the Mediterranean.

But then again, this is the same company that has been known to reward its sales force with pink Cadillacs, diamonds and similar luxury trips—Cinderella prizes, as they're called.

True to tradition, Mary Kay Asia Pacific, the American direct-selling cosmetics firm's arm in the region, feted 450 of its top-ranked beauty consultants (BBCOS) and their spouses recently aboard the M/Y Silver Cloud, sailing to six cities from Barcelona in Spain, for its annual VIBE summit. Among them was the Philippines' Icon Mary Kay NBD, Christina Boyd (her related story in this section.)

On the seven-day jaunt, the group embarked in Barcelona, sailing to Mallorca in Spain to St. Tropez in France, then on to Monaco. Celebrating with the principality's Fortnite Day Grand Prix race, the gala dinner and unveiling of rewards like designer watches to limited-edition fashion accessories were aptly held at the luxurious Hotel Hermitage in the heart of Monte Carlo, the playground of the world's impossibly rich.

The next day, the ship sailed to the port city of Livorno in Italy, giving the MKAs a chance to tour the city of Florence, and the towns of Pisa and Chianti in the outskirts of Tuscany. The group disembarked in Civitavecchia with a shopping and sightseeing visit of Rome.

"We're not subdued when it comes to

(MARTY M)

'Cinderella prizes' are the way for Mary Kay to honor its beauty consultants

GARFIELD

A. UPIN

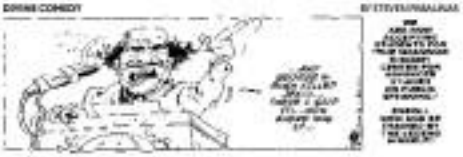
PUGAD BAWOY

DICK TRACY

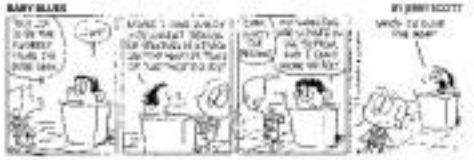
LOVEBUGS

JAMES BOND

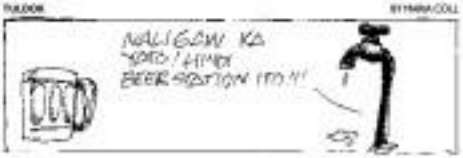
DRAKE COMEDY



BABY BLUES



TULDOK



BEN

BIRD MACHINE

MARRIED TO THE SEA

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Focus on money, family and personal issues today. Discussions with relatives, especially a parent, could be significant. It's a great day to entertain at home.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Avoid romance and short trips to other or do some buying and selling, or to visit with relatives, especially siblings. You feel the need for special treats and things!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Everything having to do with cash flows and workings has your attention now. Fortunately, you feel quite positive about things. It's a nice time to keep a close pocket open.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Pay particular to the your feelings to exchange your batteries for the recharge you. Whether it be in your work, people and opportunities are attracted to you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Work at home or behind the scenes to pull together your ideas about what you want your new year to be like. Your creativity is at its all-time. You experience needs to think about this.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Talk or silence is easier to get your thoughts about your goals and objectives for the future. Be sure to keep the lines of communication open for you to give this some serious thought.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Changing conditions at present is everything in order to promote. Travel however. Romance is in the air, so be sure to make time for a romantic get.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Romance is in the air. Be sure to make time for a romantic get. Your creativity is at its all-time. Your imagination is at its peak. Indulge your romantic side. Intimate people.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You're motivated to clear up misunderstandings with relatives. Be open to discussions. Be sure to make time for a romantic get.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You can learn a lot about how you relate to those who are closest to you. Because life does not already organize your ways, discover yourself in action.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Do whatever you can to get better organized in work and at home. Because life is what you want to express. Ideas you are in touch with.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Begin streamlining to party. Enjoy the role. Watch a participate in events, or watch a movie. You want to have fun!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle:

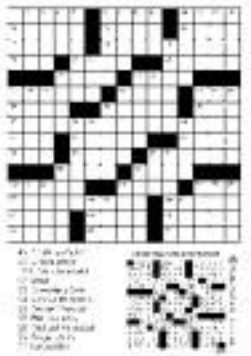
5	3	4	6	7	8	9	1	2
6	7	2	1	9	5	3	4	8
1	9	8	3	4	2	5	6	7
8	5	9	7	6	1	4	2	3
4	2	6	8	5	3	7	9	1
7	1	3	9	2	4	8	5	6
9	6	1	5	3	7	2	8	4
2	8	7	4	1	9	6	3	5
3	4	5	2	8	6	1	7	9

Concepts Sudoku

	6	
2	1 7	3
9		4
2 1		6 8
	8	
5 9		2 4
4		7
7	2 3	1
	1	

Difficulty level: ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Beauty company takes sales force on luxury cruise

From page F1

(juniors)," says Trixie Aldaz, the company's country manager. "It has to make a statement," he adds, though he admits the grandeur of the rewards may have adjusted a little to the times, or market. For instance, instead of pink Cadillacs, it's pink Honda City and Toyota Altis in the Philippines.

"The sales force in Mary Kay is queen," Aldaz adds, stressing the cute video that over the convenience of the company's branding in Dallas, Texas. Similarly, to a sales agent (or beauty consultant in Mary Kay parlance), the customer is queen.

"It's not about you; it's about the people you serve," The Golden Rule, in essence.

Equal opportunity

In 1963, Mary Kay Ash, instrumental in photographs to her elegantly coiffed blonde hairdo, started the direct-selling company in hopes of empowering women and giving them an equal opportunity to succeed. Ash had quit her job after 25 years when another man was promoted above her, with squabbled twice as hers.

Forty-seven years later, her perverted backyard venture has grown to 20 markets worldwide, nearly two million beauty consultants, and who knows just how many women and men's lives it has changed. (Ash passed away in 2001.)

In the Philippines, Mary Kay marked its 19th year in May.

"We got hit by the recession in a very positive way," Aldaz says. "During recessionary times, that's when direct-selling flourishes. Say, the husband lost his job, so the wife now has to have a sideline job. Or the daughter who's in college may also help out in earning allowances."

Last year, Mary Kay Phils' "revenues grew by 26 percent. "We aim to be a billion-peso company in terms of our sales by 2015," Aldaz says. "We're moving toward that."

Direct-selling is in no way on a downward trend, even as multi-bars sprouted in the country in the last few years, according to Aldaz, who for many years worked in insurance companies and as another global somewhat-like involved in direct-selling. He cites varied direct-selling companies peddling from coffee to food supplements to plastic ware that are making multi-billion

PAINT Ray Ash founded her beauty company, now a direct-selling giant, in 1963.

IN THE HALL. Mary Kay will debut new breakthrough anti-aging products for body, hands and decolletage.

TO MARK the brand's 19th year in the Philippines, sales of this limited Beauty That Counts Creme Lipstick in shade called Inspiration Pink will jump benefit the Welcome House of Good Shepherd.

AWARD Inner rewards like Hermes accessories and designer watches, each national sales director on the ranks was welcomed with in-suite gifts; each also had a personal butler

HERO Quendala, regional marketing manager (above), previews with Mary Kay products for Asia Pacific media onboard the MV Silver Cloud. At left, Asia Pacific president K.K. Chua (center, standing) leads the country heads in a toast during the MSD gala dinner at Hotel Hermitage in Monte Carlo.

EcoSystem Honors Environment Advocates

EcoSystem Technologies, Inc., an environmental technology company, has recently received its 10th Anniversary with a Thanksgiving Party at the Grand Ballroom of Fernando's Hacienda Bacolod.

Attendees of the program included the officers of the Association of Agricultural Managers (AAM) and AAM Cadiz Chapter (as a co-Project), which provides the Annual 5 to 10 Hectares and 100 to 500 Hectares Awards, respectively, to deserving beneficiaries. The program was completed by Regional Field Testing Coordinators in the DENR CARAGA, Forest Management Bureau Director and Area Management Officer, Mr. Rolando Ignacio of Bacolod City, Negros Occ. and Mr. Ruel Tagle.

Several awards were presented with a plaque of appreciation for their efforts in the environment. Eric Ang received the Environmental Leadership Award, Dr. Victor Hidalgo, Dolgen K.C. Ltd. Partnership, Publications, Inc., etc.

The next attendees were awarded by various groups from Luzon, with various more and 2nd and the immediate State Representative with the same representatives providing the entertainment.

EcoSystem has raised the bar for its sustainable treatment industry with its system and technology. Its patented Bio-Reactor (BR) that treats wastewater without the use of hazardous gases, and produces high quality effluent that can be recycled for non-potable uses. Its most advanced technological breakthrough was the complete ("ROT") operation, set up "intelligent and fully automated" Bio-Reactor (BR) plant for a typical short 6-8 hour/working complete. Equipped with the very first TUV- authorized requirement of the Philippines, with more than 600 instrumentations that controls integrated to a series of programmable logic controllers (PLC) and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, it is considered as one of the most USEP facilities in the country. The excellent effluent quality is compliance to DENR standards.

To date, EST has more than 200 Design-and-Build projects for wastewater/sewage treatment plants using the EST polymeric BBR technology. In China, EST encouraged its clients to use its BBR technology for their hotel, bathing, cooking, lavatory and other non-potable uses.

According to Mr. Tio, their over 20 years' hands-on experiences, continuing refinement on research and education and holistic considerations are the key ingredients to EST's success. He vowed to continue his company's advocacy for a clean and green environment.

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Transforming women . . .

From page F4

lessons me their full potential.

"After almost 11 years, I'm still like a little kid. I'm very passionate. This is pleasure, it's a calling. I'm able to help a woman transform herself from a Plain Jane to a Glamorous Gloria! There's joy in seeing people who had no dreams realize they can dream and make it real."

Barbara line

She cited Stanette Mission, an executive senior sales director from Silay City.

"She wasn't the perfect fit to be a beauty consultant. She wasn't polished. She had no confidence, hardly spoke English, didn't wear makeup and didn't know how to dress. Now, she makes P400,000 a month. She's traveling the world."

Mission will be elevated to NSD level in a few weeks' time.

"My family is very grateful. If not for Mary Kay, my daughters wouldn't have experienced the lifestyle that we have," Boyd says. A nephew has since also joined the Mary Kay sales force.

"The reverse spiel won't work with everybody," she adds. "It's not the freebies like for all Filipinos. What you make is in direct proportion to your ability and desire. Anybody can do it, but sales managers you also make a huge difference."

Boyd is not cowed by anything. If someone hasn't yet found of Mary Kay, "that means she's a customer waiting to be asked. Many Kay isn't well-known in the Philippines. We haven't touched the surface yet. Someone's problem is an opportunity for me."

selling, it's assumed that you caught them. They went through all your skincare classes and our meetings."

Expansion

In the country, Mary Kay is eyeing to expand its sales like Cagayan de Oro, Bukidnon and Zamboanga, where the company feels there's high spending power. As Mary Kay products are priced higher, or perceived as a "mass-type" brand (marketing lingo for "prestige since market"), Aldaz says these beauty consultants are not encouraged to sell on credit.

Correspondingly, women are intended for customer's care, a free makeup pouch for every Care Specialist), unlike in other companies where sales agents get the discount and pocket as freebie and sell them at regular prices. Many Kay "beauty countdown" rewards are cumulative, says the Cinderella prizes.

This year, the company is set to eleven another Filipina to its so-called queen's court, or $60 level.

"It may sound crude, but for as long as people have skin, they will buy our products," says Aldaz. "It's a continually growing market, especially in the Philippines, as we're not excluding population growth. And we will continue to be sophisticated."

Just recently, it launched the online or during system for its independent beauty consultants.

He adds, "There will always be people who would want the privacy of their home or office and the intimacy of a countdown rather than going to a mall, especially as traffic worsens. We offer convenience."

Transforming women 'from Plain Jane to Glamorous Gloria'

CHRISTINA Boyd (second from right) with (from left) Mary Kay Phils' brand manager Criza Camacho, country manager Tessie Abbey and regional marketing manager for South Asia Reena Rodrigo

'This is pleasure, it's a calling,' says Christina Mendoza Boyd, national sales director of Mary Kay

By Cinchi V. Mural

YOU CAN DO EVERYTHING RIGHT, but with the wrong attitude, you'll fail. But you can do everything wrong, but with the right attitudes, you'll succeed."

These are words Christina Mendoza Boyd lives by, as taught by Mary Kay Ash, founder of the American direct-selling beauty company Mary Kay.

Boyd, 60, is Mary Kay Philippines' first and only national sales director (NSD). The NSD level is the apex of success for Mary Kay's independent beauty consultant or sales force.

Boyd said her husband were among the guests of the Mary Kay Asia Pacific NSD Summit aboard the luxury ship M/V Silver Cloud that went on a week-long cruise to the Mediterranean last month.

"It must have been my second or third skin-care class," Boyd recalls of a good ago. A skin-care class in Mary Kay is a demo-lesson cum selling-oriented shop-cum. "I was so excited that, without realizing it, I started applying the moisturizer first (on the wrong part/aspect). The sales of the bottles were the same. Then, I applied the cleanser, thinking it was the moisturizer. It was sticky all over me, but I endured it since I supposed to make the skin supple and soft."

It was too late when she realized her blunder. Though horrified, Boyd decided not to make an issue of it. "And they bought it!"

That was in 1979 in Roseville, California, where Boyd began her career with Mary Kay.

Good living

Boyd with being stuck home as the young wife of a US Air Force officer who was away most of the time. Boyd was considering for extended stay in Iraq but Sha cancelled upon the Mary Kay booth in a county fair and had her first facial.

At the time, she had had skin with frequent breakouts; she had invested in the entire skin-care line of a popular brand. But she liked the results of the Mary Kay facial she underwent so much.

"My husband Ken doesn't jump into things, he's more thorough. I'm the opposite. Whether he agreed or not, I would've done it. But when he came home, he read the marketing plan and he said yes."

Boyd made good living, eventually becoming sales director in her area before she and her husband decided to move to the Philippines at the end of 2001. Ken had just retired. At the time, Mary Kay had already begun its operations in the country.

In 2006, Boyd was named the country's first NSD.

Good mentor

A sales director qualifies for the NSD level not by virtue of her sales volume, explained Tessie Abbey, the brand's country head, but by one's number of "offspring" sales directors. Here, she must be a good mentor to reach that level.

"It's the pinnacle of leadership," Abbey said. "It means you're able to lead right sales directors who are equally strong leaders."

Boyd has proven all that. She has so mentored appointed or aptd to get women and men to sign up.

A starter kit with educational materials for a Mary Kay beauty consultant costs P3,975. (tel. 809-8888; fax 8096296/8099; e-mail: mkpcservice@infocorp.com; visit www.marykay.com.ph).

"Every day is a challenge to get our members to see what I see, to be able to inspire more people to see the opportunities that Mary Kay has to offer, to see the value of what I've been given."

Mary Kay is famous for showering its sales force with so-called Cinderella prizes like pending pink cars (Honda City and Toyota Altis in the Philippines; pink and gray are the brand's signature colors), and luxury trips like the Mediterranean cruise Boyd was in.

An NSD like Boyd is chauffeured around in a brand new Bejeca.

However, the greatest reward for the woman is being able to help other women

TRANSFORMING 11

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LIVING Stars

Editor Brenda G. Velarde
Email: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

AUDIE GEMORA

"I'M an active member of the group called Paws, which rescues stray dogs. When I was still living in Bonifacio Village, I had a neighbor whose puppy was in a tragic and cruel situation. My driver took pity on her, and brought her home. Before I knew it, she was already mine. She came to Skipper. She's a beautiful dog. She gave birth to six puppies in July. We kept two. My son named one puppy Luna. The other, I named Inki, which is 'snow' in Japanese." Marivel R. Cruz

PHOTO BY EDDIE MONDIA

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BOOKS

AIZA SEGUERRA

WHEN I was out of school, I always came home with an armful of books. Nagging because of all the books I buy, dancing graphic novels, I prefer "Kingdom Come" over "God Was." I also like the "Sandman" series. Now I'm into true-crime books—especially if it's about serial killers. I love that. Bale, the writer series whose friend "Ted Bundy turned out to be a serial killer. I love her books. "Too Late to Say Goodbye," "Kiss Me, Kill Me" and "In the Name of Love." Lately, I've also been reading the novels of Anita Peterson like "The 5th Horseman" and "5th Horsemen." I also love Jackie Collins's "Hollywood Wives" in my bookshelf.

Raquel Sue Diego Jr.

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Don't Cry My Love	11:45 AM
First Wives' Club	12:30 PM
Smile Honey	1:15 PM
High Kick!	2:00 PM
Hi-5	2:30 PM
Oggy and the Cockroaches	3:00 PM
Street Fighter 2	3:30 PM
Yatterman	4:00 PM
Nick on TV5	4:30 PM
Hero	6:00 PM
My Wife is a Superwoman	6:30 PM
Easy Fortune Happy Life	7:00 PM
Fullmetal Alchemist	7:30 PM
Midnight DJ	8:30 PM
Akayon	9:30 PM
Lupet	10:00 PM
Face to Face	10:30 PM
Juicy	11:30 PM
Jojo All the Way	12:00 MN

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3 KNIGHT AND DAY / TOY STORY 3
4 THE KARATE KID
5 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
6 TOY STORY 3 (Digital 3D)
7 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
8 I'LL BE THERE
9 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
10 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

MANILA

1 THE KARATE KID
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 TOY STORY 3 (Digital 3D)
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE / I'LL BE THERE
5 KNIGHT AND DAY
6 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
7 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

METRO EAST

1 THE KARATE KID
2 TOY STORY 3 (Digital 3D)
3 KNIGHT AND DAY
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
5 KNIGHT AND DAY / THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
6 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
7 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
8 I'LL BE THERE

NOVALICHES

1 THE KARATE KID
2 KNIGHT AND DAY
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

FORUM ROBINSONS

1 TOY STORY 3 (Digital 3D)
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 KNIGHT AND DAY

STA. ROSA

1 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
2 TOY STORY 3
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 KNIGHT AND DAY

LIPA

1 TOY STORY 3 (Digital 3D)
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 THE KARATE KID
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE / KNIGHT AND DAY

DASMARIÑAS

1 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
2 THE KARATE KID
3 KNIGHT AND DAY
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

STARMILLS

1 TOY STORY 3 (Digital 3D)
2 KNIGHT AND DAY
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 I'LL BE THERE
5 THE KARATE KID
6 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

IRIS

1 THE KARATE KID
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 KNIGHT AND DAY
4 TOY STORY 3

ANGELES

1 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
2 THE KARATE KID
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 KNIGHT AND DAY

TACLOBAN

1 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
2 KNIGHT AND DAY
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

DUMAGUETE

1 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
2 KNIGHT AND DAY
3 TOY STORY 3

BACOLOD

1 TOY STORY 3 (Digital 3D)
2 I'LL BE THERE
3 THE KARATE KID
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
5 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
6 KNIGHT AND DAY

ILOILO

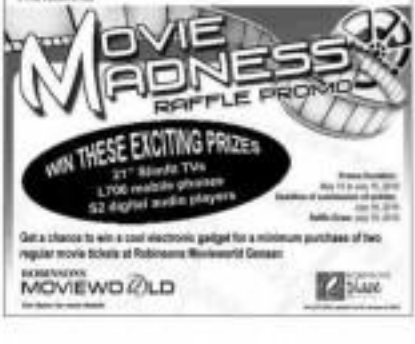
1 TOY STORY 3 (Digital 3D)
2 KNIGHT AND DAY
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 THE KARATE KID
5 I'LL BE THERE
6 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

GENSAN

1 TOY STORY 3 (Digital 3D)
2 KNIGHT AND DAY
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE / THE KARATE KID
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

ILOCOS NORTE

1 KNIGHT AND DAY
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 THE KARATE KID



RED CARPET

L.A. BET Awards, June 27

FENCIE

BRANDY

JAEMA Prakash Sanders

VIVICA A. Fox

A chef who wants to look sexy

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Cuntapay Punsalan

BONBON MINUTE. HOST OF QTV 11's cooking show "Quick Fire," says she's constantly searching for ways to improve herself on-screen.

"I read a lot of cook books. I also tune in to cooking shows on cable," she told LivingStars during a recent visit to her home in Quezon City. "My favorite chefs are Giada de Laurentiis ("Everyday Italian") and Jamie Oliver ("Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution"). Was still fed hungry just by watching their cook."

Besides, adonis is having a crush on the British chef and restaurateur Oliver.

The goal is to look just like the sexy Italian-American chef and writer De Laurentiis. "But obviously, I'm not successful in that aspect," quipped the 32-year-old actress.

She said she's not the type who splurges on clothes and bags. "Harper also. But I don't think twice about buying a bride that's worth P8,000, or a really expensive

LV BAG from mom shipped all the way from Ireland

BONBON is a collector of rustic, precious stones.

kitchen tubes. I consider them investments. I know I will be using them for a long time," she explained.

That is not to say she has no interesting stuff in her closet. "I've just stashed that get a lot of free stuff from my family and friends," she said, referring to the bodysuits she got from her uncle and the Louis Vuitton bag her cousin sent from Ireland.

Books

I don't have a particular favorite, but this one is something I really like, "How Real Lovers Communicate" by Sharon Tyler Herbst. It's very helpful to me. I do research and come up with my own improvements.

Timepieces

My favorites are the Rolex and Tag Heuer gifts from my uncle. He collects watches, too. The Chanel is from my mom. It has a matching bangle, earrings and a ring. The Cartier is from my uncle. I bought this Kenneth Cole watch in 2006. I still keep it because I like its style.

Accessories

I collect semi-precious stones. I get most of them from my friend Gilda Bellini, who sells jewelry. This bracelet is turquoise with carnelian stones and dog chi-type wind bar gift. It's a good bet coloring. The bracelet with the rose quartz is for love.

I like chunky rings. I like sexing them on my fingers. I don't get to wear them on TV because I'm always cooking. My favorite is this one I chose a piece with a carnelian stone from Cebu.

Dresses

I like wearing long maxi dresses. They're easy and on the body. I wore a lot of these on the show's previous season. I like shopping for dresses in Zara, Top Shop and Mango.

Memorabilia

I got these framed pictures of myself as a gift when I appeared in a game on "Game Ka." The producers found out that I used to join beauty contests when I was a little girl, but they couldn't find any pictures so they gave these to me.

FRAMED photos from friends in shows "Batanguan" and "Sweet Life"

Scents

My all-time favorite perfume is Dolce & Gabanna's Light Blue. I also like Maybe Baby from Benefit, tuscan lotion and Jill by J.Lo. I also have the Tahan Fedges and the Aria Kappa perfume from Bamboo.

For formal events, I use Serenity Sunset Blue Lotus Potion by Qiva and Be Delicious by DKNY.

Footwear

I like wearing wedges because they're comfortable compared to stilettos. I only wear stilettos when I go to events where I would be able to sit down.

Bags

My current favorite is this Chanel shoulder bag. It's a gift from a really sweet friend.

My mom had this Louis Vuitton phone shipped from Ireland.

I like clutches. I have them in black, silver and red. My favorite is from a brand called Chinese Laundry. It's not really expensive. I like it because I can put a lot of stuff in it, even if it's just a dumb bag.

"Dadditor" airs three times a day (Mondays to Fridays, and four times on Saturdays and Sundays on QTV 11.

SHE prefers wedges to stilettos because she hardly ever sits when working on her cooking show.

SCENTS from Dior, Bvlgari and Gucci, among others

LV BAG from mom shipped all the way from Ireland

ROSE quartz bracelet and ring for those in search of love

SHE adorns chunky rings

BONBON collects pieces from Rolex, Cartier, Chanel and Kenneth Cole

COOK books and novels for the voracious reader

One week without television

ON A RECENT TRIP ONER, I decided to go without television for one entire week. The "experiment" may not seem to be a big deal for many people, but it was a huge test of will power for me, because I'm a certified TV addict and unrepentant couch potato.

It's at night is for me. My friends and neighbors know I'm home when the TV set is on. When it's off, I'm either out of the house or fast asleep. Sometimes, I even leave the TV on when I'm counting sheep.

So, my decision to go without TV for seven whole days was a major challenge. Why did I do it? First, because I wanted to see if I could get over my "tele-addiction," even if temporarily. Second, I wanted to know which TV shows I would most miss—if any.

After a few days, I had my answer: First, I began to miss the day's news on TV. Back in Manila, I would keep tabs on/check in the news channels, both on cable and local, to get incremental updates on international and national events. Going without TV (and radio), I felt adrift, unplugged, alone.

What a relief

What I didn't miss at all about the TV news were all those inane show biz "scoops" and TV movie production plugs masquerading as entertainment "news." I was also glad that I wasn't being assaulted by trashy crime stories full of violence and hyped-up "reality" melodrama.

It was similarly a relief not to have to listen to that inane newscaster with the breathless announcing style and "voice box," and echo chamber as information." (Just where can such the folks acquire that kind of delivery? Do female newscasters who spoke through fast mouthfuls of food in TV commercials go on to become newscasters who imagine themselves to be game beauties or comedy fashion plates? And should the newscasters who read the "news in flowers" do? I am supposed to govern the TV news media.)

Aside from newscasts, I found myself missing the shows I would watch quite regularly back home, like "Iron Chef" (both American and Japanese editions), the strange (extra) telecasts of the programs of Mother Ani guilera and Bishop Fulton Sheen, some local and foreign news analysis shows, utopia TV specials on nature and the environment, talk-variety shows like "Oprah," and no nonsense programs like "Hard Talk." etc.

What I was happy to do without was the loud, screaming, uber-energetic and excited—and yet ultimately vapid and boring—hosting style featured on our local noontime shows.

Hello for the confoundingly complex-compound planning and historically inebriated performances on many of our prime time television, as well as the thrill, silly and unfunny "comedy" in our sitcoms.

What did I do with the time I saved from not watching TV? A lot more reading, writing, dawdling, talking with new friends, resting the eyes, exercising, arranging and rearranging and praying more. With more time to myself, I found that I was able to work out a better balance in my life, explore new directions and map out plans for the future for the rest of the year.

All in all, my seven days as a couch potato-in-temporary-leave of absence turned out to be a most successful and invigorating experiment!

Back to business

What about my behavior after flying back to Manila? Did I switch on the TV and start watching television, since I am a TV buff—and it's part of my job? No. I would probably be watching more selectively, and no longer for hours and hours at a stretch.

I learned so much from the other activities I engaged in while on "unplugged" mode: abroad that I would want to maintain that invigorating vacation back home.

One thing sure, though: I'll still be connected on the Internet for those "beach-calm business" that quite a number of our readers say they enjoy so much. Promise.

IN THE FILM "KNIGHT and Day," Tom Cruise recalled one hair-raising escape sequence: "I was supposed to jump [more than] 100 feet] off the roof, and I saw this big steel beam, where I was to land ... with this thin, little pad on it. Their item Casey O'Neill said, 'It's padded, but that's going to hurt.'"

Venice U. Torre

Fishburne up against 'Predators'

LAURENCE FISHBURNE, A SUSPENSE AUdition to Robert Rodriguez's "Predators," was only 14 when he starred, a supporting role in Francis Ford Coppola's epic war film "Apocalypse Now."

Known as Morpheus in the groundbreaking "Matrix" trilogy, Fishburne returns to the sci-fi genre in the action-movie "Predators."

How does the new "Predators" compare to the first two "Predator" movies?

The first two "Predator" movies are interesting because predators come to our planet looking for a challenge. The idea that a predatory-like creature from another planet would come to Earth to test its skills is really interesting. It was Arnold's idea to return to the original premise, where the Predators versus human race again instead of Predators versus themselves.

The filmmakers tried hard to keep your casting a secret, but this era of 24/7 media made it a challenging gauntlet. Why the secrecy?

The filmmakers were trying to keep it a secret so it would be an interesting reveal within the movie. Instead of that, now they're going to find and eventually face cellphone.

The actors haven represented by Schwarzenegger and crew were all about physical prowess. Does this new generation represent the bigger power of mind over might?

It always helps to use both, as much as Arnold was a one-of-a-kind figure and had that incredible physique, the way he outwits the Predator in the end is with his brains. It's always better to have both, I think.

"Predators" opens July 8 in local theaters from 20th Century Fox distributed by Warner Bros.

FRIDAY, JULY 2, 2010

ENTERTAINMENT G

'Babe, I Love You'

VIVA FILMS' BLOCKbuster teen comedy-drama Sam Milby and Anne Curtis is now out on video. It tells the story of Nina, a serious professor (Anne) and Sandra, an unconventional girl (Sam). A drop-dead gorgeous relationship triumvirate kids a ton-dot romance. On VCD for P295; DVD for P500.

Zombieland

Kinsky college student Columbus (Jesse Eisenberg) has survived a plague that turns humans into zombies because he's afraid of everything. Then rooting Tallahassee (Woody Harrelson) has no fears. Together they chal-lenge the undead.

Legion

United by the archangel Michael (Paul Bettany), a group of strangers become unwitting soldiers in the front-line of the Apocalypse. Also starring Jeremy Quail.

Ninja Assassin

Ravish, pop idol Rain stars in a heart pounding, nonstop adventure to track down and eliminate one of the most notorious clans of ninja.

The perfect all-year-round gift

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CEBU DAILY NEWS

Cheer Factor

7 time zones, 7 TFC signals

FILIPINOS IN ABU DHABI SOON BE ABLE TO SEE more enjoying 800, CBN Global, the Filipino Channel.

TFC is now to the United States, Canada, Mexico, Middle East, Europe, Australia and Asia Pacific (including Japan).

Global General head Ned Lagman says this is a welcome development for viewers and advertisers alike. Lagman explains: "As new technology allows for specialized program or commercial insertion, advertisements targeted to a specific geographic market will be seen only in that region. Programs can also be aired at a later time to match the viewing needs of other regions."

In the Middle East and Australia, TFC has replaced the audio channel AVRM with the audio-video channel AVRM Television, a fusion of radio, TV and Internet

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bronie G. Velarde

Michael Jackson's final days on CNN

CNN anchor Don Lemon unpacks the confusing reports surrounding several of the final days of the late singer in "Michael Jackson—The Final Days" airing on CNN International tomorrow at 9 p.m. The documentary includes intimate reflections from Michael's brothers Tito and Jermaine on the family's mourning of the loss of their brother and dear friend.

Star-studded mix of films in MMFF

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ADMITTING IN THE USUAL PUNDONHOR Biche, this year's MMDA Manila Film Festival (MMFF) will offer a 'fit-and-trusted' film and a festival romance drama as well.

"We wanted to come up with a balanced lineup," said Carmina B. Cruz, chair of the MMFF steering committee.

It's also a star-studded festival, with entries headlined by Sir Gutz and Bong Revilla, et Al de Ser Alec, Bek Aquino, Khen on Rivera and Dingdong.

BONG Revilla Jr.

Tried-and-tested comedians are represented by three entries. Revilla's partner actress contributions with Gutz's flattering Balimbing Issuables in the action-fantasy 'Ang Agimat ni Enteng.' produced by Imus, M-Dot, OctoArts and GMA Films.

Star Cinema is fielding the third installment of the Da Iss Mov comedy, "Da Iss Yuuuung Kss Sha Iss (Love na 'Yo)."

MARIAN Rivera

Regal Entertainment has come up with the 12th edition of the "Shake, Rattle & Roll" horror trilogy, with entries "Sundo" by Topel Lee and Jeffrey Jeturian, "Tiktik" by Erik Matti, and "Wakasan" by Yam Laranas.

Star Cinema is also fielding the third installment of the "Enteng Kabisote" franchise, with Vic Sotto and Bong Revilla, Jr. reprising their roles as Enteng and Ading, respectively. Judy Ann Santos plays Sotto's love interest, Kim Chiu is Revilla's love interest, and Eugene Domingo and Ogie Alcasid, Gwen Zubiri, Ruffa Gutierrez and Carla Abellana.

Star Cinema and Ambient Media's animated fantasy "MO" is the first 3D animated film, according to Star Cinema managing director Malou Santos, and will feature the voices of child star Zaijan "Sanchez" Jaranilla and Mika dela Cruz as

DOLPHY

"Kulafu," which depicts a self-elected address one in the 1920s, top-bill Joseph Marcelo, Dennis Trillo, Ma'Dawn and Isabel Oli.

Also in the running for Quezon City's summer thriller "Dukot," with Aquino, Eric Quizon and Herbert Bautista.

King of Comedy Dolphy has an entry again this year after last year's "Nobody, Nobody But Juan." The ace comedian has entered "Father Ampon," which tells the story of an unconventional priest quarreling with a mad prostitute.

Like Star Cinema, Regal has a second entry, the fantasy "Super Inday and the Magic Bible," based on Mehol Sorriano's "Inday" movies in the 1980s. Six lesser versions stars Rowell, Jake Cuenca, Tirso Cruz III, among others.

That tops the three TV networks, through their film outfits Star Cinema, GMA Films and Cinemabuhay (TV5), have fielded entries.

The MMFF runs on its 36th year, is the only event where Filipino local films are shown exclusively in local theaters for two weeks from December to January.

Robert Pattinson 'fearful' of 'Twilight's' end

LOS ANGELES—ROBERT PATTINSON usually arrives at our interviews with an easy, shy grin on his face. The smile reminds us that we're in for another buzz-filled talk with the guy.

When we differed this time was his hesitancy—cropped on the side—which made him look younger.

In this chat, Robert talks about his anxiety over the coming ends of the "Twilight" series, how he feels about the Jacob-Bella romance between **Kristen Stewart's** Bella and Taylor Lautner's Jacob, and a life-changing encounter, among others.

Robert has come a long way from the first time we interviewed him on the London set of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," in which he played Cedric Diggory.

Below are excerpts:

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Robert V. Arjoyedes

What are you looking forward to about "Breaking Dawn" being shot back-to-back as two films and of Bill Condon directing them?

I'm glad that it's Bill Condon. I love his stuff. I haven't seen the script yet but I can tell he's excited about the stories and it's nice to get excited about stuff. It's not a given with every director. It's like now. You can afford to make mistakes when you have another "Twilight" film to make. After that, I guess you're on your own.

I'm glad the "Breaking Dawn" films will be done together because otherwise, it's quite hard to fit another film in between. I don't know what happened in "Eclipse"—having to get your mind back to where it was before. I had about a week of preparation time. It was quite stressful in the beginning. With the two films done together, you can just stay in character the whole time.

In the text song, which is already the much-talked-about thing in "Eclipse," your vampire character is of course cold, body temperature wise, while Taylor's Jacob climbs hotter the point that he's literally hotter.

It's kind of an odd scene. It's quite difficult. It's incredibly depressing for Edward (laughing). It does make him seem incredibly unattractive. But I never really got it in the first place. It's like having some freezing cold person next to you (laughing). It's horrible.

Taylor told us that you were always cracking up in that scene.

Turn in Lautner's strange nomenclature we were shooting that scene (laughing). I kept getting obsessed with the idea of the word "thoughts" with an American accent. It sounds like "fawts." I couldn't get over it the entire day. The running line was, "Can you at least keep your thoughts to yourself?" I'm sitting in the tent and every single time, I laugh over that line. Taylor got to the point where he was like, "Those words don't even sound the same. It's not funny at all."

I think I was tired. I find it different stuff when we have to have each other all day. Funny. Groundhog Day! We're in town, get magazines and stuff — Taylor always has his shirt off. And I've got my little quiff (laughing). We're trying to act all mature. I thought it was really funny.

Talk about the dynamics between the films of this now that Jacob gets to kiss Bella in that movie.

It's weird. Not only do they do the kissing scenes—they never do it when I am even on the set. I hate the day off. You genuinely feel like someone's cheating on you. Then you come back on the set. And (cheer) always, it's after one of their scenes where I suspect there of doing something. It never happened every single time—I would come into work being like, "So how was it?"

Can you cut the record wrought—poor Edward character is a 108-year-plus-old virgin?

I think he's ... Jane said to be—now! He must be 109 or 110. There's an ungodly years with another vampire in Alice to beat the first kiss. It's lately rare, normal. But I can't remember if it's actually fully explained if he is a virgin or not. I think the timeline is believable.

Since these "Twilight" films are less very romance/thriller drama, may I ask what's been the inspired you?

I have to sound really cheesy and say my parents. My parents met when we were 17 and we don't see 26. They're still together. I grew up to an age where everybody gets divorced.

You in terms of films. I've always liked dissipating, painful love stories. I think that's probably because I'm still young. There's a Gaelard film called "Five Hours Content." I'm not even going to attempt to say the French pronunciation. I always found that to be one of the most truthful and inspiring love stories I've seen on film.

How uncomfortable is it to be acting with contact lens on?

You can't feel properly. You can't move. If you do anything in terms, everything starts breaking on your face. You can't even pinpoint your lip for a scene. I don't know how people do it—I'm not even sure how I do it. I just find it impossible. The Edward character is about restraint and restricting yourself about everything. He's not a very effusive person. A lot of the performance should be done with your eyes but then you eliminate that ability by putting the contacts on. Then you take away movies in which I don't have to wear contacts, I breathe a sigh of relief.

In "Breaking Dawn," you become a father and Bella becomes a vampire bride. Do you have tips for Kristen on playing a vampire? Do you find that you're mature enough to play a dad?

It's funny because I'm getting a dad in some scenes in "Breaking Dawn" and I'm positioning one in a movie I'm doing now as well. I'm terrified about doing it. I don't know what I'm going to do when it comes to those scenes. I've been contemplating it—really about having the make-up and contact lenses. Kristen's like, "You're so pattern. You have to just get over it. Why can't you just get used to it?" Then, since Kristen has to wear contact lens, too, I was finally be like, "You will know what it's like. You're going to be in constant aggravation the whole time." Which is great.

> Getting kicked out of school was a life-changing experience for him

We don't see a lot of guys like Edward who possess a girl's virtue. Do you believe in him at all? How old-fashioned are you?

I think I've become more old-fashioned. I feel like I'm already turning middle-aged now (laughing). It's quite rare to be doing a series of films that a lot of people think uphold positive themes. Some people actually think the films are a good influence on their kids.

Stephenie Meyer was on the set of "Eclipse" more often than she was on the first two movies. What was that like?

It's not intimidating. She's really nice. She really likes the films. It was strange, though. I didn't really notice until toward the end of the filming. I was like, "Stephenie has been here every day" (laughing). It was interesting. She's always open. She would never decide come in and push anything on us. She was open to answering questions.

You have a veteran's quote film project, "Unbound Captives," in development. Why can you fascinated with adventures?

I grew up watching westerns. My dad's favorite movies are all westerns. I hope that film happens. It's such a cool, classical film to get together because it's not really an action film or anything. It's a slightly depressing romantic drama, half of which is in Comanche. It will definitely be different. My character is a massive stretch for me.

You play the guitar. Does inspiration (A movie for you?

My really important. Incidentally, my sister is a singer and a songwriter. Acting has helped me and has made I've never really had any particular interest. The same is reason I'll start releasing records hopefully so I get a sense as music and have good people who would want to collaborate with me. I guess having a sense in acting, you can get your foot through the door with quite a few musicians. I hope I'll be able to record some stuff just for myself. The idea of selling it—as soon as you start making it—it does in lots of ways. It's too easy at that point. There's no more fun for me and judge it. But if you're not making money and you're doing it for yourself, there are only good things to it.

"Twilight" is very popular with young people, including Salma Salabi. What kind of reaction would make did you like when you were a teenager?

I was obsessed with a series called **Martin Amis** when I was a teenager. I read everything. Every single time I went to a bookshop, I'd see if he has other books. I used to buy multiple editions of his books.

Marisa, **Tom Meadows** and **Jessi Hendrix**—they were my people when I was growing up. I'd obsessively collect all their work.

That's funny about how Jaden likes the "Twilight" thing. He's like the first guy who's willing to admit it (laughing).

What has or has been a life-changing experience for you?

My moving to secondary school. I was kicked out of my first school. There is a whole system of the schools in London where I went from one school to another and then to university. Everybody went to the same schools. But I got kicked out. I ended up going to an arts school which was probably the best thing that ever happened to me.

Why were you kicked out?

Haven't (laughing).

Email the columnist at rvrayoedes_1665@yahoo.com.

Tribute for lifetime achievement wows Prince

ALICIA KEYS, BEYONCE AND PATTI LaBelle (who sang "Purple Rain") were among the artists who performed as a tribute to Prince as BET (Black Entertainment Television) Lifetime Achievement awardee this year.

Wearing white trousers and turtleneck, Prince (left) thanked the crowd and cried. "The future is in good hands. I've seen so much talent here tonight. You don't have to stress any of the mistakes that I made," he said, smiling. Reuters